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THE
YOUNG CADET;
OR
HENRY DELAMERE'S VOYAGE TO INDIA,
His Travels in Hindostan,
HIS ACCOUNT OF THE BURMESE WAR,
AND
THE WONDERS OF ELORA.

By MRS. HOFLAND,
AUTHOR OF "THE SON OF A GENIUS," "DAUGHTER OF A GENIUS,"
"ALFRED CAMPBELL, THE YOUNG PILGRIM," "THEODORE," &c. &c.

Prepare thyself,
The bark is ready and the winds at help,
The associates tend, and every thing is bent
For *India*.

SHAKSPEARE.

LONDON:
JOHN HARRIS,
CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

LONDON

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TO
ALEXANDER JAMES BERESFORD,
THIRD SON OF
THOMAS HOPE, ESQUIRE,
- &c. &c. &c.

MY DEAR MASTER B.

I HAVE the greatest pleasure in presenting you, by the permission of your dear mamma, this little book, because I know you are fond of reading the Travels of Alfred Campbell, and may therefore be pleased with those of Henry Delamere.

I have lately heard from, my friend, your tutor, that you are improving daily in every branch of your education, at which

rate and elaborate descriptions of Elora, by Captain Seely, for the latter part. Her account of the Burmese War is taken from the admirable details of Captain Snodgrass; her incidents of the Tiger and Cobra-de-Capello were given in conversation by Captain Bell; and to the kind disposition of Colonel Johnson, she is indebted for much valuable information.

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THE
YOUNG CADET.

CHAPTER I.

Introduction to the Cadet's family —Arrival of the important letter.—Feelings of a kind and virtuous family.—Religious resignation of the mother.—Sensible exhortation of the father.—Enquiries of the children on the subject.

“ You have indeed a numerous and lovely family,” said Mr. Wingrove to Mr. Delamere, as his lady and her eight children were quitting the dining room; “ but you must frequently feel great anxiety on the subject of providing for so many, in such a manner as their birth and education entitle them to expect.

“ I am not without anxiety,” my friend, “ returned Mr. Delamere, “ but there is at present

no painful solicitude in my mind on that account, for I have always observed that those young persons who belong to a numerous family do best in the world, from being compelled early in life to think for themselves, and act with energy and industry. I have brought up my eldest boy in such a manner that I trust he will be a father to the girls if they should have the misfortune to lose me. He has been constantly told that although he will be the possessor of my estate, he must take my duties along with it, and that although he will be richer than his brothers, he will yet have more claimants on his justice and generosity. The younger have all been taught from the cradle, that in some way or other they must be self-dependant; that on their own exertions alone they must rely to maintain their rank in society, since their father can give them little besides the education necessary for their future advancement."

"I could gather as much from the conversa-

tion I held just now with the two little boys; for John told me he was designed for a lawyer, and he gave me proof of considerable classic attainment, whilst little William displayed great emulation in learning also, giving me a hint that he read chemistry, from which I conclude that he is designed for a physician: they are however too young for any thing to be decided upon. But what do you mean to do with Henry? he is fifteen, and such a fine, well-grown boy, that he will soon be of an age to fix upon his future plans?"

"It is respecting him that I am most solicitous: he is a clever, sprightly fellow, with such a spirit of enterprise about him, and such an insatiate curiosity for exploring distant regions, that he seems born to be a traveller and a soldier, but as a retired country gentleman, and in the present happy state of peace, there appears little chance of my providing for him in that way to which his inclinations point."

“ But you have a *friend*, my dear Delamere, who lives in the busy world, and is not without the power of assisting your views. I like the boy exceedingly ; he is a fine, open-hearted, generous youth, has been, I well know, brought up in sound principles of religion and morality, and is full of that warm affection for his family which is likely to preserve him in those principles which he imbibed from the lips of his parents in the dear home of his early life :— yes ! yes ! I will not forget Harry.”

Mr. Delamere did not mention this conversation to his son Henry, lest it should lead him to form hopes of a wild and desultory nature, but when their kind visitor, Mr. Wingrove, had returned to London, he took more than common pains to impress on the mind of the boy, a necessity for attending to his studies, of gaining especially a knowledge of geography beyond what he possessed, improvement in modern

languages, and the practice of mathematics so far as he was able.

One evening the following Autumn, the family were all thrown into astonishment, and indeed temporary confusion, by the arrival of a letter from Mr. Wingrove to Mr. Delamere, presenting him with a cadetship for Henry, who was required to prepare himself as soon as possible for his appointment, as his friend proposed that he should sail soon after Christmas in the Unicorn East Indiaman, bound for Calcutta.

The idea of Henry going to leave them, and especially to go such a long *long* way, and to sail upon the wide ocean, awakened the utmost consternation in the minds of the younger children; and even John, the eldest, felt for a time overpowered by it, especially when he observed his mother look extremely pale, and saw that, as she bent over the little babe which lay upon her lap, tears which she endeavoured to conceal

were dropping upon its head. His heart laboured with manly and generous thoughts, and pressing closely up to his father, he said,

“ Dear father ! do not let Henry go and leave us ; at least not for the sake of money or any thing of that kind. You have often said, you hoped I should do my duty by my family ; let me give the first proof of fulfilling your wishes by sharing the privileges of my birthright with dear Harry.”

“ But don’t let me refuse this cadet-ship. Oh ! no, pray let me go to the East Indies !” cried Henry. “ I thank you, dear John, a thousand times, for all the good you intend me, and I hope I shall live to be as good a brother to the little ones as you are ; but I *must* travel, I *must* fight, I must get to be a man in the world, or it will break my heart.”

“ But it will break my mother’s heart to see you go,” said John.

Henry threw himself on his knees by the side of his beloved mother, and as he bound his arms round her and the innocent babe on her lap, looked inquiringly and almost tremblingly into her face, as if to beseech her consent to his departure.

“My dear child,” said Mrs. Delamere, suppressing her emotion as well as she was able, “I not only fully consent to your acceptance of this gift, but am truly grateful to the good friend who has procured it, and hope that you will hereafter so conduct yourself as to merit his kindness. I am now the mother of nine children, and cannot expect that they should all remain around me. It is the will of God that each should seek to establish himself, for it is the condition of our nature, and I can resign you to his providence, Henry, because I well know his eye is upon you every where, and since not a sparrow falleth to the ground with-

out his permission, surely my child will be under the highest, the only sure protection, whether present or absent."

"Thank you, *dear, dear* mother!—go where I may, I shall never, *never* forget—"

Poor Henry could say no more, for his heart was too full, and whatever might have been his wishes a minute before, he now clung to his dear parents and sisters with an intensity of affection that seemed as if he found it impossible to leave them. Mr. Delamere was much affected, and felt that it would be indeed a great trial to part with a child of so amiable and loving a nature—one, too, whose gaiety of disposition and sweetness of temper had made him the life of the house and the darling of every creature around him ; he struggled, nevertheless, with his feelings, and addressed himself to his two eldest sons with peculiar earnestness and tenderness.

"Dear John, I hope Henry will never forget

the proof of affection you wished to give him, nor the information I now give you both ; that it is not in his power as an honest man to alienate his future possessions, even for the most generous purposes. He is the representative of an ancient house, and will one day be its head, and it is his duty to hold his property unshackled and unembarrassed, so that all the branches of his family who need it, may find a home and protector in his house, without injury to his own progeny should he have one. He must be the master of many servants, the guardian to many dependants, the landlord to many tenants, the example to other gentlemen similarly situated, and also to many descendants, the children of those children around us. With so many duties to perform, you will all see the necessity of not pressing upon him beyond his powers ; of conceding to him all those natural rights which he holds from the laws of his country, and for the general benefit of the

whole, more especially your sisters; and I hope all my younger boys will, in a different but equally effective manner, feel proud of going out, like Henry, into the world and attaining independence by honourable exertion."

The countenance of each boy brightened up as they severally declared, "that they were determined they would try and be men as soon as they could," whilst Henry, whose dreams of the future were always the most sanguine, took the hand of his favourite sister, and promised "that he would give her a fortune at all events."

"But, dear Henry," said the poor girl, as she clung fondly on his arm, "what is it to be a Cadet? What are you to do? Where are you to go?"

"These are indeed very important questions Selina," replied the youth, "and such as I must myself ask of my father; for although I am sure Mr. Wingrove has done me a great service, I

am certainly as ignorant of the nature of the obligations it imposes as you can be."

"I will tell you all which I know of the matter to-morrow," said Mr. Delamere, "for it is now time that we had family prayer, which will compose our spirits, and remind us how much it is our duty to beg a blessing on the new path which is opened for one of our circle so young and inexperienced as our dear Henry."

CHAPTER II.

The East India Company.—Their possessions, powers, and conquests.—History of Hindostan.—Irruptions of the Turks.—Tamerlane's ferocity.—Hyder Ali.—Tippoo Saib.—Extension of British power in Asia.

THE following morning, it will be readily believed that Mr. Delamere's chair was environed by several blooming children, who, although

silent from modesty and respect, looked up to him with eyes that said, "Pray, father, what is a Cadet?"

"A Cadet is a youth sent out by the East India Company at their own expense (as to his voyage) to join their army; where, when an opportunity occurs, they will present him with a commission."

"But what is the East India Company?" said John.

"It is a body of the greatest merchants in the world, John, who hold by a charter from our government immense possessions in Asia, levy armies, support a governor in the style of an emperor, and pay a prodigious revenue to the mother country."

"But how did they get this country at first?"

"In order to answer that question properly, my dear, it is desirable that I should give you a few of the leading historical facts respecting the country now become so interesting to us all,

and of so much importance to Henry. Fetch your map of Asia and lay it on the table, as it will be useful and pleasant to see the relative situation of those countries I may have occasion to name, and I will then tell you, as briefly as I can, that which you desire to know."

A gentle murmur of thanks, a close encircling of the kind father's seat, succeeded ; Mr. Delamere then spread the map before them, and thus resumed his discourse to his lively, but attentive children.

"Asia, which is the largest, as well as most illustrious quarter of the globe, (as being that in which man was first created, and where the glorious scene of his redemption took place,) is, you will perceive, divided into but a *few* immense empires, if we consider the riches, population, and power of each. The consequence of this extent of territory is, that the reigning sovereign and his court know little of the countries they govern, which are, in fact, ruled by

deputies, under the names of Soubahs, Nabobs, and Rajahs, who oppress the subjects, rule them with despotic power, and when they have increased their own wealth and importance sufficiently for the purpose, rebel against their head, or make war upon each other.

“ These remarks apply more particularly to the empire of the Moguls, or Hindostan, which you see by the map is bounded on the north by the mountains of Tartary and Thibet, on the east by Assam and Aracan, on the south by the sea, and on the west by the river Indus. It is a land rich in all the productions necessary for man, and was originally inhabited by a mild and ingenious race of men, who, with little energy as to the more important objects of life, were yet capable of pursuing elegant and useful arts.”

“ Those were the Gentoos, I believe?” said Selina.

“ They were, my dear ;—these continue to

be the principal inhabitants in point of number, but they have been conquered and overrun by the Mahomedans, who are called the Moors of Hindostan, and whose language it will be necessary for Henry to acquire as soon as he is able. Several of you will recollect that Alexander the Great penetrated India as far as the Ganges, (and I dare say even William could tell me what the gigantic king Porus said to the great Grecian conqueror,) but he could not be said to subdue this noble country ; and we know but little of its internal situation till the year 1000 of the Christian era, when a terrible irruption of Mussulmen drove the sovereign from the capital, and established the religion of the Koran by the point of the sword."

"That is the only way to do it," observed John in a low voice. His papa continued.

"In 1398, Tamerlane, a Tartar prince, poured over the plains of Hindostan a flood of ruin. His furious hordes, directed by abilities that

would have merited his appellation of ‘the Great,’ had they been properly directed, in their ferocious conquests exceeded all that imagination can conceive of destructive cruelty, and went far beyond their former invaders. Tamerlane was called from his labour of blood on the plains of Delhi, where he had secured immense treasures, to conquer Bajazet, Emperor of the Turks, whom he took prisoner, and is said to have confined in an iron cage. He died in the midst of his glory in Egypt, which he had subdued also, and left the Mogul Empire to his successors, who managed it in the manner I have mentioned, each despot giving power to other despots, generally more tyrannic than himself. From these arose, in 1667, the famous Aurengzebe, who was a great and politic prince, capable of consolidating and extending his mighty empire, and whose conduct after he took possession of the throne merited more praises than we can give to any of the progeny of Tamerlane.

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At his death four of his grandsons['] disputed the throne, and the empire, weakened by these contentions, invited the incursions of the Mah-rattas; and it was no wonder that Nizam, a successful general against these invaders, became in fact the governor of the country, whose weak and quarrelsome princes afforded no rallying head for the people. A great country, my dear children, like a private family, should be at union with itself, if it would escape the evils of a foreign tyranny.

“ Nizam, it is said, invited Kouli Khan, the Persian monarch, to invade Hindostan, and we are assured this conqueror destroyed two hundred thousand Gentoos, and took no less a treasure than the value of two hundred and thirty one thousand millions of our money, when he fixed the heir in the throne of his ancestors at Delhi. This empire has since then fallen into that decay inevitable to its impoverished state, and was again plundered in 1756.

The city of Delhi was taken in 1803 by the British under General Lake, and continues a part of the possession of the East India Company."

"But, dear Papa!" said little William, "you have not yet told us who that Company is, and what made them go to Asia among these strange people."

"The whole of the country I have spoken of, my dear child, was formerly known to us Europeans only through the traffick we had with them by means of the Mediteranean, the Red Sea, and the caravans which crossed the Arabian Deserts with merchandize, which they disposed of at Grand Carro, Aleppo, Alexandria, and other Egyptian marts; but, in 1497, Vasca de Gama, an enterprizing Portuguese, having succeeded in sailing round the Cape of Good Hope and reaching Calcut, (at that time an extensive sovereignty,) a new world was opened for the enterprizing spirit which was then

set afloat by the discovery of America and every important power endeavoured to avail themselves of it.

“ Portugal first obtained leave to plant a colony, for the purpose of mutual benefit to the two nations concerned, on this coast ; and Gama himself died viceroy of the Indian settlements, which were the result of his discovery. France followed, but did not effect much, for the habits and genius of this great nation are not commercial. The government of the United States, on the contrary, formed an East India Company, which have realized great wealth and power. England, you may be certain, was not idle when others were busy, but for a long time circumstances were against her. Queen Elizabeth, in the latter part of whose reign the proposal for forming such a company originated, was grown too parsimonious to afford necessary aid ; and though carried into effect in the reign of James the First, yet it did not get sufficient

parliamentary assistance till the beginning of the last century, since which time other beneficial acts have also passed, and the immense increase of territory and wealth which has during that period accrued to this great body, and through them to this country, is now beyond belief."

"But, dear papa!" cried little Frederick, "if they went there to trade with the natives, ought the Company to fight with them, and take their cities and fields, as if they were enemies?"

"My dear child, wherever there is a conflicting interest it must needs be that offences will come. As I have already shewn you, this country has been always subject to wars among its subordinate princes, and such of those as made it the interest of our Company to assist them with money, men, or arms, could not fail to find them friends, whereby the opposite

party were of course made enemies to the new comers.

“ The native soldiers are valiant, but so completely undisciplined, that the value of our military tacticks were soon appreciated, and we were of course courted by many native princes, though hated by others, and no doubt can arise but that these princes in their aggressions merited the chastisement they received. That many wrongs have been committed, that our people have exercised a haughty spirit towards those on whom they have intruded, I cannot doubt; but I also do firmly believe that the Gentoos, under our dominion, are better protected, and more kindly treated, than by any of their native princes. The sense of justice, the rights which spring from good laws and good government, are so entirely unknown in that unhappy country, save by the British population, that one can scarcely consider any circumstance

which introduces a new order of things, in any other light than a blessing."

"I suppose we always beat them, if we fight at all?"

"Not always, for they are much improved by being so frequently engaged with us; besides, the French, when at war with us in Europe, have afforded our enemies in the East instruction. Great numbers will sometimes carry the day against even the finest troops and the highest courage. You recollect, that Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta, are the three places where we were originally permitted to station ourselves. The latter place is the capital of Bengal, and in 1756, Nabob Sarajah Dorola, governor of that province, overpowered our garrison, and threw Colonel Holwell and his companions into a place named the Black-hole, where an hundred and twenty-three died of suffocation, only twenty-three surviving the sufferings of that horrible night. An account of this unparalleled

act of barbarity was written by Mr. Holwell, who survived and became afterwards governor."

"With Hyder Ali and Tippoo Saib, his son, the Company were compelled to contend many years, but the death of the latter, when his capital of Seringapatam was taken, concluded that war greatly in favour of the British. They were sovereigns of Mysore, which you will find to be a country lying between the Carnatic and Cape Cormorin. Immense treasures were found in the capital, and the whole country after its fall was added to the British dominions.

"Our latest wars, and those which Henry will be probably called to share, lie on the other side of the Bay of Bengal, being with the Emperor of Birmah, formerly called Ava. This sovereign, having greatly extended his dominions, particularly by encroachments on the Siamese, his southern neighbours, has ventured to attack us also, notwithstanding our extent of territory, and

the number of well-trained native infantry in our pay, but there is little doubt but ere long he will repent his temerity. Farther than the repression of injury and insult, we cannot desire the British power to push its conquests, since they are now in possession of an immense country, which, to reign over with prudence and manage with kindness, will sufficiently employ them."

"But surely, papa, Henry will not oppress and plunder the people, that he may bring home diamonds and silver muslins?" said Selina.

"God forbid! my dear child," said the father; "indeed there is now little danger that he will have such sins in his power. When our government was in its infancy, the inhabitants, following the custom of their own country, (where extortion of every kind is in daily use, generally presented many costly presents to our law-officers, and any other persons who were

likely to forward their endeavours to obtain justice, or to evade it. This vile custom is now no longer acted upon, and of course the poor man feels the same power of gaining his rights as the rich. The monarchs who had amassed great treasures, have for the most part expended them in ruinous wars, and our soldiers must therefore be content with regular pay, and the reward liberally accorded by the Company to their servants. India will be no longer the nurse of luxury, the reward of enterprize, the temptation to extortion and tyranny, which it has been in days past. A new and better order of things has sprung up, and will increase, arising from equitable laws duly administered, regular trade properly pursued and proportioned; and above all, from that sense of humanity and self-subjugation, commanded by our religion, which is now taught with most happy effect to the higher classes of society throughout British India."

CHAPTER III.

Character of Henry.—Anxiety of his parents.—Preparations for his removal.—Presents of the little ones.—Summons to the ship.—Sorrowful parting with his family.—With his father.—They sail.—Sea-sickness and recovery.—Arrive at Madeira.—Beautiful view of Funchal.—Proceed to St. Helena.—Ceremony of crossing the line.—Arrive in Chapel Valley Bay.

MR. DELAMERE had little farther opportunity for informing his young family on these points at present, for he deemed it necessary to give all his time to the improvement of that child who was so soon to be removed from him, whose education it was therefore necessary to complete so far as time allowed, and whose principles it was his duty to render as stable as his early youth and pliant mind permitted. Henry was a courageous, high-spirited, and honourable boy,

of a generous and cheerful temper, a compassionate, affectionate heart. He had been from his cradle brought up in the performance of religious duties, carefully instructed in scripture truths and the rites of the Established Church, of which his parents were worthy members, and so dearly did he love those parents, that at this time the simple fear of grieving or offending *them* would preserve him in the path of virtue : but yet ! he was the source of much anxiety, for he was extremely young, full of those buoyant spirits and those agreeable qualities which expose gay hearts and pliant natures to temptation. Many a time would tears start into the eyes of his mother, when she beheld him eagerly preparing for his departure, or heard him desecant on the pleasures in store for him ; and often would a sigh rise to the father's lips, when he reflected on the distance that would part his lively boy from the counsels which were wont to guide him.

The younger children gazed in astonishment at the numerous articles provided for his wardrobe, and his amusement, during the long voyage before him, and every one produced something from his own little store, which might add to the pleasure of the traveller. One sister knitted a purse, another made a portfolio; one little girl brought her doll as her best treasure, and her youngest brother his kite, and as it would have grieved them to refuse their gifts, Henry took them to his mother, and in a voice full of extreme emotion, entreated her to put them carefully by, adding, "If ever I return, I will claim these presents of the children that gave them. Yes! mother, these dear creatures and my sister Selina must be my care, if it please God to prosper me. My eldest brother must allow me the pleasure of sharing his duties and being a kind of father to them. I shall not always be thoughtless little Harry, you know?"

At length the summons came, Henry must

join his ship, now lying off Deal, and it was happy for all parties that not an hour could be lost. Mr. Delamere accompanied his son, but of all the rest of the family, leave must be taken. Servant after servant claimed attention, for they all loved Harry, whose faults and rogueries, whatever they might have been as a heedless boy, were all forgotten at this moment, and praises were mingled with lamentations on every side, yet *their* kindness, though it really affected him, was not like that of the clinging, weeping sister; the quiet, silent, wringing pressure of his brother John's hand, and what was even that to the low smothered tone with which his mother blessed him?—her fond kiss, her tearful smile, put to flight all his mustered resolution, and his father was obliged to lead the sobbing boy to the carriage in a state of distress that for a short time was completely overpowering.

Many hours had passed, the passion of grief

had exhausted itself, and a few hours of unbroken sleep had recruited the faculties of our traveller, when he reached the sea-port from which he was to sail to another far distant country and realise all the wishes of his inquiring mind. It is however certain, that the idea of parting with his fondly beloved, his deeply-venerated father, again affected him so severely, that he would gladly have resigned at this moment all his long-cherished wishes, if a sense of duty had not come to his assistance. He had the good sense to know, that having gone so far, he was bound to go farther; and rousing all that was manly and firm in his nature, he determined neither to disgrace himself by retracting any of his former professions, nor wound the heart of his father, by sinking under the pain of parting, as he had done in the first instance.

This praiseworthy magnanimity in Henry became its own reward. He found his spirits

rise when he went on board the ship, the sea-breeze seemed as inspiring as the cricket-ground at home had ever been, and he was again conscious of his usual wishes for that destination he was called to fulfil; and when he found himself strained for the last time to his father's bosom, he was enabled to say, "Pray tell my mother that I am very happy, dear father."

The father whispered one word of approbation, and closed a scene he bore with difficulty by descending to the boat. There were other fathers, other partings, and other sufferers, but for a short time Henry forgot all the world save his own dear parent; and, when the last glance of his figure was completely gone, sought only to hide himself and his feelings from every eye, yet he had one sense of consolation in having quitted his father with fortitude.

The wind was favourable, the ship was under weigh next morning, and soon began to clear the Channel, but poor Henry then began to

experience that trouble to which new voyagers are generally subject, and long before he lost sight of his native shores, suffered all the depressing sensations of sea-sickness. He had never known more than a day's illness within his memory, and that had been soothed by the tenderness of his mother, or amused by the playfulness of his companions; and *now*, when he felt so much worse, to meet no attention, save that of a joke from his messmates, or assistance, except from a menial, at first struck him as hard to bear. He found that there were others who suffered equally, reflected that he had entered on a course which, whether of hardship or ease, was certainly of his own choosing, and remembered that its evils had been pointed out to him, and he had promised to meet them firmly; he therefore set himself to endure, and bore his first trial with as much heroism or more, than any other passenger.

In the course of a fortnight, health and

appetite returned, and the captain congratulated Henry on what he termed his resurrection. He now became capable of attending to what was around him, and was never weary of admiring the noble vessel in which he sailed. The beauty, cleanliness, convenience, and even elegance, of his floating home; the excellent table, the pleasant company, the commanding yet protecting air of the captain, the friendly manners of the ladies, all struck him as being charming and delightful, and he began to wonder that any person could consider a long voyage disagreeable, unless, like himself, they had suffered from sea-sickness.

This agreeable change had taken place about ten days, when he was one morning called on deck to hail that sight of land which even the oldest seaman greets with joy. He beheld Madeira rise from the bosom of the blue deep, like a rich gem embossed with emeralds. Every moment it became more and more apparent, the

lofty mountains covered with forest wood, the grounds below covered with vines, and then the town of Funchal itself, the houses rising tier above tier, intermingled with churches and monasteries, met his view, and he felt as if this alone repaid him for all the sufferings of his voyage.

This sensation greatly increased on entering the island, which presented on all sides something so totally different to every thing he had left in his own country, as to offer at once the gratification and the stimulus to curiosity. The city was populous and handsome, yet there was not a single carriage, except clumsy cars drawn by oxen. The very cornucopia of Nature appeared to be emptied here in the quality and quantity of fruit: but even from this sight, grateful as it is in such a climate, he was withdrawn to gaze on a procession of monks, and a body of inhabitants, whose dark complexions, indolent gestures, and unknown language, gave

him that sense of being for the first time in a foreign land, which all who have experienced it will remember.

It so happened, that the ship in which Henry sailed was laden with stores for St. Helena, and the captain therefore lost as little time as possible in taking in what was necessary at the Madeiras, and he desired the passengers to return to the ship as soon as possible. Henry urged his wishes to examine the island, and especially to climb the mountain of Rica Ruiva.

“The thing is impossible,” returned the captain, “and were it not so, you would see nothing but the sea, and you will have enough of that, I promise you. All the world knows, that Madeira was discovered by the Portuguese, who found it covered with wood, which they set on fire to clear it. They escaped with difficulty, the fire burnt for seven years, and so fertilized the soil, that they afterwards raised an unequalled abundance of sugar and wine, the last of

which continues excellent to this day. The inhabitants are mostly poor, or proud ; but it is a jewel of an island, and the prettiest thing in the Portuguese diadem, if they knew how to polish it ; but don't stay to talk about it now."

Henry returned reluctantly, and looked back with eyes that lingered on the beautiful novelties around him : it was now evening, and he saw a group of the lower inhabitants, who appeared to be vine-dressers, dancing under the shadows of the beautiful Paibanco-trees, to the sound of the Spanish guitar, and added to the beauty of the spectacle in the distance—no wonder he was sorry to depart.

The second part of the voyage proceeded less rapidly than the first, and Henry began to think the words of the captain true, as to his having " enough of the sea," but he was happy in the society of the passengers, who became more friendly with each other the farther they proceeded ; and books in the early part of the day,

and a dance on the deck in the evening beguiled the time ; whilst the store of luscious fruits taken in at Madeira preserved their health, in despite of the increasing heat which they now experienced. Every day would the heart of Henry anxiously revert to his dear home, the occupations and the improvement of its inhabitants, and birthdays, holidays, and visiting seasons, continued to awake in him the most lively interest ; he had no doubt that they all thought of him with as much tenderness as he remembered them, and he rejoiced in the belief that neither climate, country, nor circumstances, could break the tie of affection which bound them to each other.

After their continuing a steady progress some weeks longer, unmarked by any incident, Henry was one morning awakened by an uncommon noise among the sailors, which, notwithstanding there was no enemy to dread, gave him the idea of preparation for an engagement. He had just

begun to dress, that he might see what was stirring, when a sudden irruption was made into the cabin, and an old sailor, fantastically dressed up to represent Neptune, attended by various personages, whose appearance was rather comical than classical, gave him to understand, "that the ship was then passing the line, and he must be immersed in the seas of the new hemisphere to make him free of the South." Henry had heard of this old joke, and gladly paid the fine, which was imposed on several passengers as well as himself, and gave the sailors their usual treat of grog on such occasions: but one young man who resisted underwent the penalty, and was roughly handled by the seamen, and laughed at by the passengers for his obstinacy.

Continual enquiries as to the state of their progress, conversations on Bonaparte, and renewed diligence in gaining as much of the Moor's tongue as their situation admitted, filled up

the time till they arrived within sight of St. Helena, which is seen from a great distance. Henry thought himself fortunate in seeing this remarkable place, which is not often visited by *outward-bound* ships; and, young as he was, he could not forbear to reflect much on the fate of that great warrior, for whom this mighty rock formed first a prison, and now a tomb.

As they drew near to this remarkable island, the difference betwixt it and the beautiful Madera struck him forcibly. Sometimes it appeared like a stern-looking castle or fortress, rising in frowning grandeur; at others, like a mass of broken rocks thrown by some sudden convulsion of Nature from the bottom of the deep; but in no point of view could he conceive it to be the abode, much less the pleasant habitation, of man. “Ah!” said he to himself, “how must the hearts of gay Frenchmen and their wives have sunk within them, when from the deck they contemplated their future home!

at least *their* sacrifice was noble who followed the fortunes of a ruined master to such a melancholy exile, and, whatever were the faults of him who so long embroiled Europe and spilled the blood of her sons like water, their attachment is honourable to those who gave and him who received it."

In due time the vessel wound its way to the only point of entrance to the island, called Chapel Valley Bay, which is fortified not only by fifty large cannon, but by the perpetual dashing of prodigious waves, as if Nature herself denied access to her most inhospitable shores, which are at length only reached by a small boat which lands a few men at a time in a little creek. The impression of desolation was aided in the mind of Henry at this moment by large flights of sea-birds, a gloomy atmosphere, and a threatening wind, which blew so strong as to have nearly prevented their landing at all, a circumstance by no means uncommon. When



this difficulty was got over, those persons who had no merchandise to dispose of or to purchase, eagerly began to form into a party for the purpose of exploring the island, and as our young friend was one of them, he found himself more agreeably situated than at their last landing, as he had plenty of time for seeing any object of curiosity.

For those who have been many weeks at sea, confined to one monotonous view, apparently cut off from the wide world, and placed upon an element capable of opening every instant and swallowing them alive, and when appearing most smooth and smiling, liable in a single hour to exhibit the most alarming change, the simple circumstance of feeling *solid* earth beneath their feet is a delightful change. They look round on all living creatures as a kind of new-found brethren, renew their acquaintance with houses and trees, feel their hearts glow with veneration at the sight of a church, and busy

their minds with eager comparisons between the things they behold, and the dearer things which they remember.

These emotions filled the mind of Henry with pure delight, as he pursued his way into the higher part of St. Helena, where every step which took him from the shore presented objects of beauty, and conquered the impression of barrenness and desolation hitherto inspired. In fact, a rich though shallow coat of earth covers this mighty rock, which produces fruit-trees, feeds cattle, supplies wheat in small quantities, and vegetables in abundance. There are no forest-trees, but the vine has been propagated successfully ; and the ground is so broken into green hills and rich valleys, as to render views from the interior frequently very beautiful, and give the idea of a Paradise in the mighty ocean, fenced in by a fortress of impregnable strength.

In due time they reached the former home of Bonaparte, and were minutely informed of all

those particulars which have been so often transmitted to Europe, that repetition is needless, respecting the situation, the conduct, and death of Bonaparte. All viewed his grave with interest, and Henry felt again that pleasure a traveller cannot fail to experience in actually viewing scenes of which he has heard much, and greatly desired to behold.

CHAPTER IV.

They arrive at the Cape of Good Hope.—History of this place.—Tremendous storm for some time prevents their landing.—Pleasant run from thence to Madras.—Henry's surprise at landing.—New trees, new birds.—A new world around him.

THE examination of St. Helena only quickened the desire to proceed in our young traveller, and he was now not sorry to be summoned on board. They proceeded with somewhat of a brisk gale, and soon lost sight of the pinnacled

rocks, ceased to talk of the dearness of provisions there, and the impositions of the natives, and began to look forward to their arrival at the Cape of Good Hope, which is always deemed a point of great importance.

Henry borrowed from a lady Michle's translation of Camoens' *Lusiad*, a poem written on the discovery of India by Vasco de Gama, which he read at this period with great pleasure; but when he arrived at the description which is there given of the storms which took place off the Cape, for which they were steering, he could not help saying, that he thought the poet had made them too tremendous.

"I shall be very glad," returned the captain, "if you continue to think so; but as you have seen very little rough weather yet,—for we had only a slight rocking even in the Bay of Biscay,—I cannot allow you to be a judge. Not that I like the description of Camoens at all, for he must needs paint the spirit of the storm, by way

of increasing its horror and ugliness, and to my mind he had done far better in giving its natural effects, which every body can conceive, and which far exceed in grandeur and terror any conception of man; in a very few words, our own service in the Prayer-book gives a better idea by half."

A few days after this conversation, the joyful tidings of land being descried from the topmast was given, and Henry hastened with others to the deck, each holding a glass for the purpose of descrying the welcome terra firma. In a short time they discovered the Table Mountain of the Cape of Good Hope, and before the sun went down, had the satisfaction of discerning not only that, but several other prominent landmarks with the naked eye.

The following morning Henry rose soon, impatient to observe all that could be seen, and anticipating a day of uncommon pleasure, because he apprehended it would be one of ac-

tivity and diversity. To his great surprise he found the captain giving various orders with a tone of such anxiety as bespoke in his care that pain rather than pleasure was expected, and on looking up he observed the mountain covered completely with light vapoury clouds resembling snow.

“You see,” said the captain, “the Table is having the cloth laid upon it; and we sailors can assure you that it is a bad preparation for a dinner, should those fleecy-looking wind-messengers descend; depend upon it, we shall have one of those storms which caused the first name given to the place to be Cape Tormentoso.”

“I believe the native inhabitants of all the land in our eye is the country of the Hottentots, but that, although the Portuguese were the first discoverers, it was the Dutch who first planted a colony;—am I right?”

“You are. For many years, the Dutch, in their voyages to the Indies, used to land here to take in water and provisions, and the ships

going out used to deposit their letters under a case of iron, covered by a stone, which the ships returning took home, and conveyed thus intelligence of their voyage to different parts. John Van Riebeck, a surgeon, and a man of abilities, first conceived the idea of forming a better establishment for the purpose of aiding his country, by a settlement, which being about midway from their possession in India and Europe, might afford assistance to travellers from each country. His plan was adopted by their East India Company. Ships were sent out, the friendship of the natives ensured, Cape Town built, land granted to settlers on advantageous terms, and the place became wealthy, populous, and productive."

"But did they incur no trouble from their savage neighbours?"

"For^{ward} about ten years they were engaged in continual skirmishing to maintain their footing, but after that became easy, and during that

time proved that the soil was well worth cultivation, and the climate favourable. Farther up the country there are many wild beasts, more particularly lions, tigers, leopards, and wolves, but they rarely come near the coast, where they have yet abundance of game, particularly large herds of deer, and where the birds are numerous and beautiful, and, so far as I can learn, no country in the world boasts an equal number of curious plants. At a considerable distance from the coast, there is a settlement of the Moravians, who have made converts of a number of the natives, and whose collection of botanic curiosities is prodigious, being assisted in their researches by those sable brethren to whom they have imparted far better things."

Whilst the captain had been imparting this information, the dense mists he had termed the "table-cloth" had crept down to the very foot of the mountain, and quick blasts of wind coming from the land-side, whistled among the cord-

age, and violently shook the sails of the vessel, many of which were now reefing. When summoned to breakfast, every face wore disappointment, and all the more experienced said it would be a day or two before they made the port—a thing which appeared to the novices next to impossible. They had, however, no time to dispute on the subject, for the wind suddenly rose tremendously high ; a sudden swelling of the waves communicated the idea that there was a wind below the surface of the sea, not less than over it, and a terrible confusion arose throughout the maritime dwelling.

Soon after, black clouds overspread the face of Heaven ; all sight of the deceitful coast was denied ; the waves, impelled by the wind, and rising every moment higher and higher, seemed to come as revengeful enemies from the land to forbid their approach ; and many were extremely desirous that the captain should stand out for sea, and give up all intention of visiting such an

inhospitable shore. In general, this gentleman, though firm and authoritative among his men, was not only gentle and conciliating in his manners, but of a disposition to comply with any request properly urged ; but, on the present occasion, Henry observed that he turned a deaf ear to all remonstrance and entreaty, and, making up his mind to meet the difficulties before him, either enforced obedience or silence on all around. Henry, in despite of the greater objects of surprise and curiosity around him, could not forbear giving his unqualified admiration to this conduct, which he considered not only praiseworthy in itself, but as affording a most salutary lesson to himself ; and many a time did he inwardly ejaculate, “ If ever I am called upon to hold the lives of others in my power, to combat with danger, or to enforce command, God grant I may act like Captain Murphy ! ”

In a short time the storm so increased in its terrors, from the more rapid swell of the waves,

and the loud pealing of thunder, the vessel was pitched so violently, and her rigging was so injured, that many of the passengers gave themselves up for lost, and only one besides Henry was permitted to remain on deck, lest they should suffer for their temerity on the one hand, or impede the efforts of the seamen by their expressions of fear on the other. Henry had attended much to the working of the ship ever since they left Madeira; he understood the sea-terms, and he now lent a willing and able hand to every manœuvre for her preservation which was pointed out, whilst he kept his mind in that state of quiet endurance of evil and calm expectation of good, which his father had frequently said was the only kind of courage to help a man in the time of need. Henry was aware that even he, young as he was, might, on the present occasion, practise this species of manly bearing, though he could not have done it on the field of battle; for there, anger for the wound he had re-

ceived, or revenge for the death of a companion, might, in addition to the arrogancy natural to a young impetuous soldier, have rendered him too eager to be guarded, too venturesome to be wise. He had now to contend with danger in a way that rather asked the strength of fortitude than of valour, yet it asked for exertion against that grief which was awakened by the thoughts of home, that fear the existing terrors around him were likely to awaken, but he rallied his mind, he lifted up his heart to God, and felt that in the midst of this awful scene he had a heavenly Protector, who was above all, and commanded all, and who, in another state of existence, would give him life eternal for present death.

Often did he think on those words in the Psalms to which the captain had lately referred, and acknowledge how admirably they depicted the state in which the vessel now stood, but he did not speak either of his recollections

or feelings to him or to any one; it was a time for acting, not talking; and in those pauses from labour when his thoughts could retire to his own breast, and, as it were, attend to their own business, he was aware that it was his duty in deep humility to prostrate his heart before God, submitting to his will, recommending also the souls of all that partook his situation.

Night closed upon them, the thunder ceased, and the forked lightning no longer showed those fearful abysses of the parting waves which had so long threatened to swallow them; but as the hurricane still raged, their danger appeared hidden from them only to render them the surer prey. Henry descended into the deck, at length, to take some necessary refreshment, of which he stood in extreme need, and there found all the passengers assembled in that state of fearful expectation, silent awe, and bitter sorrow, which bespoke the effect of their situation on different minds. It was a moment

when all disguise was dropped, and some of high-vaunting displayed miserable pusillanimity ; whilst in several instances timid women looked pale but placid and resigned. It was to Henry a heart-rending scene, and affected him infinitely more painfully than the threatened death which he beheld above. There was something in the sublimity of the latter which was stimulating in its magnificence ; but the faint breathings of sighs, the wailings of fear, and even the quietness of the firm, were affecting and distressing to his compassionate heart ; and when, with great difficulty, from the perpetual racking and pitching, he had obtained a little biscuit and swallowed a small portion of brandy, he returned to the deck.

“ You well deserve to carry good news to the poor wretches below,” said the captain, “ for you have proved yourself worthy an admiral’s honour ; return, and tell them we have got on a good tack, and the breakers are

subsiding ahead. I thought this before I sent you down, but am now certain of it."

Henry did not wait to hear the observations nor exclamations which followed this good news, for he hastened to rejoin the indefatigable man, who was to him the most interesting person on board. A second night did he continue to watch and labour, but was rewarded by seeing the sun go down on a gradually improving state of weather; but the surf was high, and the gale still brisk; when, by the wonderful skill and alacrity displayed by the captain and crew, the ship at length drove with amazing celerity into the harbour.

Although the Cape of Good Hope now belongs to the English, who took it twice within a few years, a great number of its first inhabitants are found there, together with many French and other Europeans; and Henry was exceedingly amused with all around him, save the original inhabitants of the soil, whom he

pitied yet could not approve. The cleanliness of the Dutch placing the filthy habits of the Hottentots in the strongest point of view, rendered them the more disagreeable ; but the avarice and meanness of the settlers would in a more lengthened stay have shown him, that immoral dirt is the more disgusting of the two.

Provisions and water being obtained, the Table Mountain visited, old friends looked at, and letters despatched for England, they became as impatient to quit this place as they had lately been to arrive at it ; and as the weather was now very fine, they enjoyed a pleasant and speedy run to Madras.

Being prepared for the high surf, the danger of reaching the shore on the present occasion appeared trifling to them, after the tempest we have mentioned, and they rather enjoyed the landing, which is effected by boats of a parti-

cular construction, and which placed them in a few minutes high and dry upon a fine beach, apparently out of the reach of all injury from that mad surge which had so lately threatened them and still appeared to rave against them.

Here, then, was Henry in Hindostan! that country which must be to him a future home,—and how strange a one it was! All he had seen of novelty before was far short of this; for not only was he surrounded by such vessels, carriages, and people, as he had never beheld before, but the very trees were strangers; and as he proceeded, the rich broad-leafed plantain, the bending bamboo, the tall palm, the curious cocoa-nut, and the majestic banian, each claimed his surprise and admiration, and told him he was on a soil he had never trod before.

Nor did the inhabitants of these trees less delight him; for here the green parroquet spread his wings at liberty, and numbers of those bril-

around me presents a moving picture of extraordinary character ; and although I fancied, from the descriptions I had read, and the views I had seen, that every object would be familiar to me, yet I find them not less new and striking in the effect they have upon my eye, than if I had not heard of them before.

. “The White Town of Madras looks very handsome to those eyes which have long desired the sight of human habitation, although the houses are only one story high ; they are flat-roofed, built of brick, and covered with a plaister made of sea-shells which no rain can penetrate. There are three principal streets, barracks, hospital, town-house, &c., surrounded by a strong stone wall, with batteries, bastions, flankers, cannon, and all those means of defence which seem to belong to a fortress placed in the land of enemies. It is inhabited by merchants and their dependents, military men, and troops of the natives under our command. The Black Town

is inhabited by Gentoos, Mahometans, Jews, and Indian Christians, who are chiefly Armenians : it is also a fortified place. The streets are wide, with trees planted to protect the inhabitants from the burning heat of the sun ; but a considerable part of the town consists of miserable cottages, which are inhabited by a crowded and poor population ; so that, although many are rich and exhibit marks of wealth, they are contrasted by the extreme of want ; but, they tell me, this is rather in appearance than reality. In this town there are several pagodas, which are the Gentoo temples, and are full of the most hideous idols ; but none of them give an idea of those large and costly places I expect to see hereafter.

“ Ah ! what a delightful thing did I find it yesterday, to assemble with my countrymen once more in the house of God, and offer up prayers for those I loved, and praises for the mercies I had experienced, with so many similarly situated !

I had witnessed, even in this short time, so much of what was strikingly ridiculous and disgusting in the religious ceremonies of the proud Mussulmen and the silly Hindoo3, that I felt as if I could never sufficiently express my gratitude for having my own lot cast in the “goodly heritage” of Christian light. Dear mother, be assured that the lessons you have given me will grow only the firmer in a place where I am every day compelled to feel their value and their truth.

“But my brother John bade me tell him something about the Bramins. I must begin by observing that all the native inhabitants of Hindostan are divided into four great tribes, and that of the Bramins is the most noble, being, like the Levites among the Jews, the only one which can officiate in the priesthood; but they are not all priests, as we used to suppose, but are merchants, agriculturists, &c. but never in any menial capacity; and I assure you that they are as proud and hard-hearted towards their

humbler countrymen, as any conquerors could be, and, generally speaking, are by no means the amiable personages we boys at home used to fancy them. The second tribe is the Sirri, who are military men, but blend other business with that profession. The third is the tribe of Beise, who are merchants, brokers, banias, or shopkeepers. The fourth is that of Sudder, who are menial servants, and can never raise themselves above the disadvantage of their birth. Besides these there is the cast of Harri, who are held in detestation by the rest, and never employed but in the vilest occupations.

“ Besides these grand distinctions, they have grades arising from the superiority of one city to another, and they would die on the spot rather than give up one inch of their prerogative. I do not pretend to judge of such matters ; but this system of holding back all progressive virtue and merit appears to me so bad, that I do not wonder that so many strangers have in-

truded on their country, and become their rulers. But I will not moralize about them, when you are all asking what they are like? Come, my dear Selina, you shall have a camera-obscura view of the road on which I have been driving. The grand drive here leads from the fort to St. Thomas's Mount, it has a fine avenue of trees, the whole nine miles; and at the distance of seven, is a race-course and a handsome stand. All the way as you go, there are garden-houses in the country, with beautiful verandahs and porticoes, which, being covered with chunum, (a plaister which resembles white marble,) have a beautiful appearance.

The carriages are all English, and I need not describe them, as there is not, so far as I have seen, any thing remarkable: therefore, leaving this gay promenade, I will take you with me into the Black Town, in that part where the population is chiefly Mahometan. These fellows like not *us*; there is a curl of the whiskers, a

flash of the eye, a proud curbing of the rein, or the step, as they pass an Englishman, which bespeaks an angry sense of his superiority—a remembrance that *he* now occupies the ground *they* sought to subjugate. I must confess, however, that they are a brave and enterprising race; I like their boldness better than the servile, supple natives, of whose simplicity and harmlessness I have very little opinion; for certainly a more cheating, extortionate, usurious and invincibly obstinate race never existed. They are handy, it is true, and are therefore in one sense agreeable servants; but being also lazy, proud, and dishonest, are very unfit for being about careless young travellers. Ah! how you would have laughed to have seen us all at day-break, the first morning after our arrival, when half-a-dozen of the natives, in white dresses, red turbans, gold ear-rings and finger-rings, poured into the dormitory and applied themselves with amazing dexterity to dressing,

shaving, or shampooing* each of the party! I never felt so odd in my life, as when one of them began unexpectedly to wash my feet. I felt indeed as if we were both degraded by the action; and the poor fellow was so adroit in his business and even elegant in his motions, that I could scarcely forbear to conceive he had been born to far higher employments, and stooped to me as a captive bends to a conqueror: so that, on the whole, I found it disagreeable enough, and I hope that I shall not be amongst the number of those who are ruined by the luxurious and effeminate practices of the East.

These sensations were still more excited, when I made my first *entrée* to a palanquin, which is always attended by nine men, who have no

* Shampooing is a pressing and gentle friction applied to the limbs after fatigue, and is considered a refreshment; the operator concludes this service with pulling the joints till they crack. This custom has been lately introduced into this country, and is said to have a very good effect on rheumatic and paralytic patients.

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other clothing than a cloth twisted round the middle, and who carry you by turns, four at a time. The carriage itself is like a bed with pannels, which are painted and varnished like the pannels of a coach, with Venetian blinds and sliding doors, handsomely lined with leather, silk, or chintz. It has poles like a sedan chair, and you may lie at your length, or sit up and look out as you please. The bearers will run with you twelve miles in three hours, frequently relieving each other, singing as they go in a measured cadence, which seems to assist their steps.

“ But let us look around once more.

“ There goes a group of native women, carrying water to their houses in just such urn-like vessels as you read of in Alfred Campbell's *Visit to Samaria*, for I understand they are common all over the East. These women walk gracefully, have fine persons, and although their dress consists of only one piece of cloth, it is so managed

as to be not only equivalent to other garments, but perfectly picturesque. It passes round the loins, then covers the bosom, and is either thrown hood-like over the head, or falls negligently mantle-wise over the left shoulder. Their shining hair is disposed elegantly in folds on the crown of the head, and often ornamented with chaplets of yellow flowers.

“They are succeeded by men with red turbans, breast-plates, sashes and swords, and with belts of leather or tiger skin. These are Peons of the Zillah, or police foot-soldiers. After them come a party of Dubashes, fat-looking black men, with very white dresses and turbans, and large ear-rings. These are a kind of agents, ready to execute any commission for you.

“Now come a body of horsemen, well dressed and mounted in the English mode. They have comparatively light complexions, and are accompanied by an officer carrying a 'chowrie or fly-flap, which is made of the bushy tail of the

Bootan cow. These are the body-guard of the governor; they are followed by a corps of black soldiers, completely dressed as British troops, except the cap, which is peculiar to the sepoy of the Madras Establishment; they are a very fine regiment indeed.

“Now comes a monk of pale complexion, grey hair, and highly intelligent countenance—he is indeed an Italian, and his black robe, white cords, and small skull cap, altogether present a picture of great interest: he belongs to the Capuchin convent in the Black Town.

“Near him walks an Armenian gentleman; he is a fine-looking young man in a white vest, blue sash, and high velvet cap; and he stops to speak with a priest of his own country in a purple robe and mitre cap, who is a stout man with a long bushy beard. They are succeeded by a large man, well-mounted, wearing a shawl turban, gold-threaded sash, and silver-headed creese (or dagger). The housings of his horse are

embroidered with gold, his reins are silk, and he is decorated with a breast-plate of shells. A servant runs by him with a screen shaped like a spade, so as always to shade his face; he looks vain but cheerful, and is the native of a distant province—a man in power, as I judge from his appearance and the salaams* he receives. But I must finish my pictures of men and women, whether low or high, Mahometan or Gentoo, to give you that of a pagoda, the temple of the Hindostanee.

“A high solid wall, built in an oblong square, incloses a large area. At one end is the gateway, above which is raised a pyramidal tower, which is ascended by steps in the inside, and divided into stories; the central spaces on each side are open, and become smaller as the tower rises; the light seen through them has a beautiful effect, and they are completely covered with

* A bow with the hands crossed on the breast.

sculpture ; but this is rather elaborate than elegant. When you have passed through the gate, you find yourself in a spacious paved court, in the midst of which stands the inner temple, which is raised about three feet from the ground, open, and supported by numerous stone pillars. An enclosed sanctuary at the end contains the idol ; but all the other parts of the pagoda are also covered with images of their numerous and hideous deities, most of which look as if they were made to frighten naughty children. Vishnu the preserver, Siva the destroyer, Kama-dova riding on a parrot, Agare on a ram, and Varoona, god of the seas, mounted on a crocodile, meet your eyes in black granite at every turn, and appear to me vile guests for such stately mansions. Before the exterior we frequently find a bull, as large as life, extended ; but within, the figures are far less prepossessing.

“ Around the whole court is a deep verandah and colonnade, which in many parts, I am told,

consists of pillars of marble, enriched by precious stones. Near every pagoda is kept a huge wooden car, which is, in fact, a portable temple; on which, at certain seasons, some favourite idol is placed for the purpose of processions, when immense crowds unite in the labour of moving it.

“ I must now conclude this letter, as I am summoned to my ship, and trust that long before it reaches you, I shall be safe at Calcutta. Dear mother, after what I have said of Hindoo temples and deities, I hope you will readily believe that I feel more value for the true faith than I ever did before, and am aware that I can never be sufficiently grateful for the blessing of being educated in Christian principles. God grant that your advice may always rest upon my memory, and influence my heart and conduct, so that, although I am thrown at so great a distance, I may be worthy of my excellent parents and my dear country!

“ When I think of you all, when I reflect that on this letter your eyes will glance, your kind observations arise, my heart grows so full, that I dare not remember the situation in which I am placed ; but, nevertheless, I know that I am in the element which I long wished to explore. Life is before me in all its varieties, an honourable profession, and, as I hope, a respectable competence, and I enter on my task with a light heart ; so do not allow yourselves a moment's uneasiness for your thankful and affectionate son,” &c. &c.

Henry returned to his ship in high spirits, being amused by all he had seen, and glad to increase his stock of knowledge by all the enquiries he could make from those on board. From them, in sailing near the coast, he learned the ancient and present state of Calicut, once an empire, and the scene of the notorious Hyder Ali's irruptions and cruelties, but now princi-

pally in possession of the English, who took it from Tippoo Saib, who himself fell at Seringapatam, in the same line of country, being a part of Malabar. The capital is now principally supported by the importation of the teak-tree.

Time passed pleasantly; Henry recognized, either by sight or description, every object of interest; but none were found so important as the Isle of Ceylon, to which Henry was enabled to make a flying visit, through the kindness of the captain, who happened to have some business with a merchant resident near the coast.

CHAPTER VI.

Description of Ceylon.—Voyage to Bengal.—Enters the Hooghly River.—Calcutta.—Letter to John.—Description of the inhabitants.—Black Hole, and Governor Holwell's sufferings.—Jewish congregation.—Barrock-poor.—Howdan Elephants.—Letter concluded.

WELL might Henry be delighted with Ceylon, that land of fruits and spices, for it appears a kind of store-room in which Nature has hoarded up all her choicest productions. It is fertile in various kinds of rice, which in these regions is the staple food of man, and pepper, ginger, sugar, cotton, and mangoes are abundant, besides the gorunda goucha-tree, which produces cinnamon, which is its bark, and a nut which is used for oil. The vegetable wealth of this island is indeed astonishing, and it is also rich in precious stones and mines of gold and silver.

Henry had seen poor Chuny in London, so that he thought himself acquainted with the form of the elephant, but those which he saw in Ceylon, employed in the service of man, and adapting their mighty strength and intelligence to his use, astonished and delighted him. He found that the elephants of Ceylon are deemed superior to those on the continent of Asia, and that the island produces also buffaloes, deer, hogs, goats, tigers, monkeys, and jackals, a great variety of curious birds, many serpents, and some of an enormous size. From these latter detestable animals he was not likely to be annoyed, as he had no time to explore the country ; but he was awakened the only night on which he slept on shore by the melancholy cry of the jackals. On rising and looking out half asleep from his window, he saw only the broad hanging leaves of the bigaha-tree, which is always in motion, and held in great estimation by the natives, who place their idols under it. A glance at these

strange objects told the poor boy that he was in a new country, far from that of which he had been dreaming ; but as he saw no object of annoyance, he returned to his bed, satisfied of his safety, and pleased to remember, that if his own beloved country boasted not the sparkling ruby, nor the fragrant spice-tree of Ceylon, neither was it subject to the fangs of the tiger nor the poison of the serpent.

Leaving this rich island, which is of an oval form, sixty miles wide and two hundred and forty long, they entered the Bay of Bengal, and, being favoured by the weather, soon achieved the long desired voyage, and found themselves entering the Hooghly, a branch of the sacred Ganges, that river which the Hindoos considered capable of conferring immortality and eternal happiness.

On the eastern bank of the Hooghly, about one hundred miles from its mouth, rises the city of Calcutta. If Madras be striking in

its strong walls and fortified air, rising from a stern sandy soil, infinitely more so is this Eastern city of palaces, and the reach of the ruin near it, called "Garden Reach" from the number of beautiful villas and gardens, shrubberies and lawns which bespangle it, seem a 'neat frame for such a noble picture. Calcutta is built only of brick; but it is so covered with the beautiful white chanam, that the effect of marble is produced; and as the government-house, the fortress, and esplanade, open to the eye, are seen in conjunction with a magnificent spread of river enriched by shipping, and animated by a diversity of light vessels rapidly moved by natives in gay and various costume, nothing can exceed the magnificence, vivacity, beauty, and interest of the objects it presents. No European city can vie with Calcutta in the striking effects, the pleasurable emotion it excites in a stranger.

Nor does landing destroy the charm of novel-

ty and beauty which thus seizes on the senses, but rather increases it; for on every side the traveller beholds all that entrances him with surprise as being *new*, united with that which is endeared to him by being *familiar*. Coaches, chariots, tilburies, and barouches, are seen driving along and reminding him of dear old England; whilst black drivers in muslin wrappers and turbans, tell him that he is far from thence; and when he sees Armenian and Gentoo merchants dressed in shawls, and lolling in landaus made in Long Acre, he cannot forbear to think how extraordinary a scene he is witnessing, in thus beholding his countrymen residing in the land of another people, at once in a state of close union and complete division; exercising the command which belongs to power where they had once no claim but that of permission, and blending conjunctly the benevolence of protection, and the tyranny of assumed right, over a weak but unchanged population.

Though Henry was received in the most kind and courteous manner by the family who expected him, and was exceedingly delighted with all around him, yet he could not fail to be sorry to part with the captain and his fellow-voyagers, for they seemed to him a part of his own country ; of course, he did not neglect to write when the vessel returned, and we therefore transcribe his letter to his brother.

“ MY DEAR JOHN,

“ Depend upon it, Calcutta is the finest place in the world. I know there are towns with far larger and grander buildings ; but then they are not half so clean, and new, and beautiful, as this bride-like city. I have been standing on the roof of the house the last half-hour for air, and, as it was midnight, had an opportunity of seeing all the gay company returning from an entertainment at the government-house ; and I assure you I never witnessed any thing that

could compare with the splendour and gaiety exhibited. Whilst the torches of servants were flying about in all directions, lighting the coaches and palanquins, I started at the cry of the jackals, and remembered that Calcutta, with all this show of population and grandeur, is yet surrounded by a jungle where the tiger prowls for his prey, and too frequently seizes on the defenceless native; that the palaces by which you are surrounded are little more than the growth of half a century.

Here, as in Madras, there is a Black Town as well as a White one; indeed, the place seems to me a home for all the people of the earth. Chinese, Arabs, Persians, as well as Armenians, and every tribe of Hindostanee origin, may here be met with, and the Black Town literally swarms with population. The difference between the domestic servants here and those of Madras is striking, as they are here completely covered by a loose robe with wide sleeves, full trowsers,

slippers, and a flat turban half shading the face and neck : in speaking, they join their hands and lift them forward with a respectful, deprecating air. They are delicately clean in their persons and graceful in their motions, and it is from these qualities and their humble manners that they have established the character many writers give them : but, in fact, the Bra- mins of India are the proudest people I ever met with, and the most cruel and insolent to their own countrymen of inferior caste.

I have been here a week, and, as you may suppose, have run all over the town, or been run with by others ; but the truth is, that I have been taken by Mr. —, my kind friend, in his curricule. The government-house is very splendid, but I was more delighted with the venerable form of the Marquis of Hastings than all the trappings of state by which he was surrounded. I was delighted with the museum, where I saw an amazing number of war instruments from all

parts of India, together with specimens of their sculpture, and some very beautiful ones of the nutmeg and clove plants, with other oriental curiosities.

There are two establishments for the education of natives under our protection, being colleges for Mahometans and Hindoos, who are taught by Moonshees and Pundits, that they may be qualified to fill the place of petty officers in the Company's service. In the former, I was exceedingly pleased by the intelligent looks of both teachers and learners; in the latter they appeared to be stupid-looking fellows, not likely to make much progress.

There are many charitable institutions in Calcutta, and a noble reservoir of water, which is supplied by springs; near to which is a monument erected by Governor Holwell to the memory of those unfortunate persons who perished in the Black Hole,—a circumstance you remember, my dear father, mentioning to us. It

is now little more than sixty years since the Nabob Sarajah Dowlah crammed one hundred and forty-six of our countrymen into a hole of eighteen feet square (amongst whom was a lady), to die by most horrible sufferings; whilst 70,000 Moorish troops were encamped around them. What a change has taken place since then! indeed that change was soon effected, for the victors held their 'vantage ground only for a short space, and no one can regret their removal.

There is also a fine Botanic Garden belonging to Calcutta, with which I have been much pleased, on account of the novelty and beauty of all I saw, and the extraordinary fragrance of the flowers; but if I had understood botany, I should have had more pleasure a great deal. Knowledge of any subject increases its interest tenfold, and I hope henceforward to get rid of my schoolboy haste in despatching lessons of

any kind, and to study for the sake of improving my mind instead of finishing my task.

“ I was much struck with the Armenians at Madras, and now admire the women as well as the men. They are very pale, but their eyes are large, dark and expressive, their features full of intelligence and pensive softness. They wear on their heads a cap with jewels in front, like a tiara, over which they throw fine shawls, which, descending in graceful folds, veil their forms, yet add to their dignity. I have been to the Armenian church, and was much pleased with the air of deep devotion apparent in all the worshippers; but the assumed splendour in the dress of the priests, and the ceremonies of wrapping the Gospel in gold tissue, did not suit my taste, from being used to the plain good sense and simplicity of our own establishment; nevertheless, there was much to admire and approve in all that I beheld, and the church

itself is a neat plain building well calculated for a Christian temple.

“ I have also seen a little Jewish congregation ; which was very striking, for I could have fancied that the Patriarchs themselves, in a state of Babylonish captivity, had been placed before me. Their long silver beards, handsome but marked features, and the kind of half-lighted, dungeon-like room where they assembled to read the Old Testament from an ancient manuscript volume, favoured this idea ; and as I gazed upon them, my very heart ached with the intense desire I felt that they would come to that light which our Lord brought to a benighted world, and was offered *first* to their forefathers—that instead of skulking in holes and corners to worship the true God, they would add to that worship, faith in his Son, and gratitude for his great sacrifice.

“ What a contrast was afforded, in both these places of worship, to a Hindoo pagoda and its

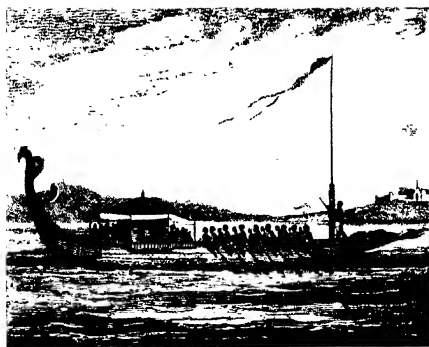
hideous idols ! Compared to them the Mahometan worship is really respectable ; and the veneration these people entertain for Abraham and Moses, seems to me a kind of connecting-link between them and us, which one can never feel for the Gentoo idolators, who, whilst they adhere with the most obstinate stupidity to their religion, yet appear to know its folly and frivolity, as the makers of idols continually recommend them to the English, with “ Please to buy them for the children, masters.” Surely this is the height of folly !

“ At this time, the Holy Scriptures are printing here in no less than sixteen different dialects, so that we may hope, in the course of another century, knowledge of the most important truths will become general in this immense country, especially as upwards of an hundred schools are established by the Company.

“ The Governor has a beautiful seat at Barrackpoor, about fifteen miles from hence, on the

banks of the Hooghly. Our kind friend took me there in his budgerow, as I preferred going by water, to traversing the fine road which leads to the park. I was much pleased with the whole scene, which combines the character of an English nobleman's residence with that of an Eastern prince ; but nothing struck me so much as seeing the Howdah elephants carrying out the Governor's domestic party for their evening airing. Near the park is a cantonment for five thousand Sepoys, with several streets of neat-looking bungalows for the officers.

“ But I must now say something of myself. I have been received every where most kindly, and find I am shortly to be sent to Benares, the very place I so ardently desired to see, as the — Regiment is now in the neighbourhood, to which I am to be attached. Mr. — thinks that I shall get a commission very soon; but whether that is the case or not, I hope I shall see service and learn my duty. He has given



me much good advice, particularly on the subject of not attaching myself too strongly to young officers of whose character I am ignorant: and I mean, therefore, to find my pleasure rather in observation on the country and the inhabitants, than in society. This resolution is the more necessary for me, because you well know, dear John, that I was always given to hasty friendships, and got into more scrapes at school that way than any other boy, as you may remember, for you had no little trouble to get me out of them. Ah! my brother, when the remembrance of your kindness, or that of my beloved parents, comes over my mind; when my happy home, the haunts of my childhood, or even the images of our dogs and horses, rise in my memory, for a time it completely overpowers me, and I feel as if I would give the whole wealth of the Indies twice told, to be with you again, and never never leave you more. But do not be uneasy on my account; these acute recollections do not

last long; and I soon shake off my sorrow, look round on the new world before me, and feel delighted with all it presents, and impatient to see more.

“You shall hear from me as soon as I am stationary; and in the mean time, with duty to my parents and love to all the dear young ones, I am, my beloved John, affectionately yours.

“HENRY DELAMERE.”

CHAPTER VII.

Voyage to Berampore.—Menshedabad.—Elephants.—Ruins of Gour.—Fakirs.—Monghyr and its springs.—Henry arrives at Benares.—Writes to his mother.—The streets, Pagodas, Bramins, Mosques of Benares.—Letter continued.—Henry removes to Cawnpore.—Method of travelling.—Description of Allahabad and Cawnpore.—Letter concluded.

Nor long after despatching this letter, Henry set out with an officer and company of troops in

a budgerow (which is a long vessel with an awning, well calculated for river voyages,) up the Hooghly for Berampore. He was exceedingly pleased with the views presented as the vessel gently moved forward, and showed characteristics of the country; particularly when they saw a neat Indian village, where the elders were assembled under a group of trees, and the young men were driving home their flocks of cream-coloured cattle, and the women bringing down their brazen urns to fill them with water, in the same way that Rebecca of old went forth to the well at eventide. He was also amused with the busy scene presented by the river itself, as vessels of all forms and sizes, laden with merchandize, and frequently managed by the most picturesque-looking navigators, were continually passing: many of them were covered with matting, and looked like floating cottages.

From Berampore they proceeded to Menshedabad, a place of considerable importance,

sions, the suffering of years, and the sacrifice of life, are the common self-inflictions of these unhappy and deluded beings.

The cotton plant, with its bursting pod disclosing that beautiful substance, which affords to us such various, elegant, and useful articles—the indigo shrub—the betel plant, and the graceful bamboo, all varied the way as they proceeded to Monghyr, which is remarkable for a hot spring. It is gathered into a walled well, round which, as formerly at the Pool of Bethesda, numbers of cripples and sick people were assembled, but the healing stream was guarded by many stout, healthy Bramins, who never suffered the peniless to approach the stream, and even when Henry had relieved a poor wretch, took the money instantly from him—a decisive proof of the hardhearted avarice common to this celebrated caste.

Henry now approached the celebrated city of Benares, having passed Ghazipoor and seen in

its neighbourhood a mausoleum erected to the memory of the venerable Marquis Cornwallis. As Benares is the finest city now left in the possession of the Gentoos, and a place which every Indian traveller desires to see, we shall offer Henry's own account of his view of it in a letter to his mother.

“ MY DEAR MOTHER,

“ I write to you from the very focus of oriental learning and splendour—“ the land of roses, the garden of beauty.” It is in truth the most curious place you can conceive, and can only be seen in a palanquin, or on horseback, for the streets are so narrow, and you find such crowds of people in them, that you are obliged to have a police trooper to clear your way, or you would not be able to get on at all. The houses are built of brick, and form a kind of labyrinth of lanes, being six or seven stories high, and frequently connected with each other by small bridges thrown across the street. These

houses are painted in stripes, or ornamented with the Hindoo deities. The shops are all in distinct streets, according to their trades; in one are embroiderers of gold and silver muslin, which they do so beautifully it would be a treat to the girls to see it; in another are displayed the finest shawls; a fourth is filled with jewels; a fifth with jewel merchants. Several streets are entirely filled with the makers of brass idols, together with lamps, dishes, and vessels of the same metal, and these are really splendid.

“ You meet in the street numerous Bramins, in open palanquins with crimson canopies, or hackrees drawn by two showy horses with flowing manes, richly caparisoned. The women are beautifully formed, wear garments of the richest materials, walk gracefully, yet fetch their own water, and therefore form a striking feature in the population. The most remarkable, however, is that of the great number of Hindoo youth of high caste sent to Benares for educa-

tion. These do not reside in schools or colleges, but board in the houses of the Bramins who instruct them, to the number of six or seven only.

“ I went into one temple dedicated to Mahadena, which was externally covered with sculpture, and internally with flowers, and so far attractive; but, considering the character of Benares as the seat of learning and religion, the pagodas are by no means grand or numerous. Adjoining this temple was a sacred spring, which I found guarded by a fat, stupid-looking Bramin,—as fine a picture of lazy pride and ignorant dulness as you can well imagine.

“ I visited also a famous mosque built by Aurungzebe in the heart of the city, of the very materials which had constituted their proudest pagoda to commemorate the triumph of the crescent in India. What would this proud Mussulman have said, could he have known that the cross would so far have laid

low his boasted acquisitions as it has done in our time, and that his descendants and their opponents would alike have crouched at the bidding of those 'Christian 'dogs' whom they despised with so much scorn, and, when opportunity offered, treated with such barbarity?

“I saw also a fine observatory built by a Hindoo rajah, who must have been of a very different description to any of his race; and in the very heart of the city is a school founded by a wealthy Bramin, who is really a liberal man, and certainly not an enemy to Christianity; so that it would be wrong not to allow him merit.”

* * * *

(In continuation.)

“Unexpected information has removed me from the neighbourhood of Benares to Cawnpore, from whence I resolved to despatch my letter. I have had a very pleasant journey, setting out after dark, and travelling in a palanquin, on which I could lie or sit as I felt inclined. My

clothes were packed in neat hampers, and the palanquin had drawers, writing-desk, two or three books, and a lamp; likewise a canteen convenience for meals. I stopped every day twice, to wash and take refreshment; and found relays of bearers every ten or twelve miles, so that nothing could be more convenient and comfortable.

“I saw in my course Allahabad, an ancient city near the confluence of the Ganges and the Jumna; near which I visited a subterraneous cavern, where, during the reign of Moorish persecution, the Gentoos retired to perform their own superstitious rites. Even now, multitudes of pilgrims crowd to the confluence of these sacred rivers, and every year there are some who voluntarily rush to death; and when the swollen corpse rises again to the surface, it becomes the prey of the vultures which hover round the scene of sacrifice. Who that beholds such horrid spectacles, can forbear to desire the con-

version of a people so unhappily blind to present happiness and eternal glory? .

“Cawnpore is a noble-looking place, with numerous domes and cupolas, and a large inclosure for tombs, which is much more grand and solemn than any church-yard I have ever seen. The Mahometans are fond of walking in their cemeteries at the hour of sunset, and their serious deportment, flowing garments, and stately step, suit well the solemnity of such scenes. Altogether I am pleased with this town: there are good houses and bungalows,* fine Howdashed elephants, gay barouches and tilburies; and on the whole it seems a second Calcutta.

“And now, dear mother, with love and good wishes to every one of my beloved brothers and sisters, and more gratitude to yourself and my excellent father than I have words to express, I must say farewell,” &c. &c.

* Garden houses.

CHAPTER VIII.

Henry recalled to Bengal.—Joins the army at Rangoon.—Writes to his sisters.—Causes of the Burmese war.—The King.—Invasion of Rangoon, and its evacuation.—Cruelty to European settlers.—Grand Pagoda.—Distress of British troops for forage and provisions.—Attack of a tiger related.

THE wishes of Henry to *see service* were fulfilled very soon after the writing of this letter, and in a manner which brought him acquainted with all its worst features and most trying circumstances. He had expected to be attached to one of those armies which, about this time, were directed against the Burmese territory in the more southern parts; but he had the satisfaction (for such he felt it) of being recalled to Bengal, and sent with a reinforcement to Rangoon, then in the possession of Sir Archibald

Campbell, from which place, about four months after the date of the last, he addressed the following letter to his sisters.

“ DEAR GIRLS,

“ I am now a soldier in good earnest, and it is my pride to say I hold a commission ; but do not figure in your own minds brother Henry as a gay young fellow in a dashing uniform, strutting with an air on parade, or singing at a mess-table. If you saw me, and many better than me, in our present quarters, you would think us far more objects of pity than pride, and wonder where all the grandeur and beauty which we connect with ideas of India had flown,—for our appearance is deplorable enough.

“ But you know of course little or nothing of us in our war ; so get your maps, look out for the vast possessions of the sovereign of Ava or Burmah, which you will find contiguous to those of the East India Company on one side, Siam

on another, and China on the remainder, and, having done that, you will be able to go on with me in accounting for my present situation.

“The King of Burmah is absolute, and he rules through the medium of several officers not less despotic than himself; and who, knowing they are liable to be changed or destroyed at his pleasure, without trial or appeal, use the little day of their power to oppress the people by the most cruel exactions, and are altogether a set of very despicable people; for if they were tolerably good when raised to power, they soon become bad from this exercise of it. They have no caste amongst them as the Hindoos have, nor are they by any means so bound to a degrading idolatry as they are, so that they are a more liberal-minded people, and seem also to me naturally good-natured and courageous and clever. All that is wrong about them is caused by their government, which is really as bad as can be; and in proportion to its tyranny and

folly at home, it is insolent and encroaching towards its neighbours.

“ So far as I can learn, this same King committed first one offence and then another against us, till it could be borne no longer, and it was thought right just to show him what British India could do by way of making him keep his distance. That he was a powerful enemy to the Siamese was well known ; but it was certainly not apprehended that, however great his resources might be, he could at all resist well-organized and brave troops, led by so great a commander and such experienced officers as ours ; and therefore, when last season we sent out an expedition against him, it was the universal opinion that this boasting King and his flattering courtiers would very soon be taught good behaviour ; which was all that our government desired of them.

“ For this purpose several regiments from Madras and Bengal set sail from Calcutta, and in due

time reached Rangoon, which was considered a place of great importance, and a kind of key to the empire. Very little opposition was made to their landing ; but it was found that the place was in fact a poor, mean town, the inhabitants of which were already driven out into the neighbouring woods, taking with them whatever it was possible for them to carry, and destroying whatever could be useful to their invaders. Our people were certain that they had had no expectation of such visitants, within a very few hours of their arrival in the Rangoon river ; yet with wonderful celerity, by the firing of beacons and the despatching of messengers, they had succeeded in evacuating the town, in seizing all its European settlers for the purpose of putting them to death, and in securing the women and children of the inhabitants as hostages for the good conduct of the men, every one of whom is in case of emergency bound to the duties of a soldier by the laws of the country.

“ The poor Europeans were, however, saved, not from pity, by their chiefs, but fear,—lest we should retaliate the like vengeance ; and they were found bound in a pagoda, where they had been many hours expecting death, the barbarians frequently sharpening their instruments of execution before their eyes. I wish I had been there at that moment when they were liberated ! but I will not complain, for I have had quite enough of Rangoon, and ought to pity those who have had more of it.

“ The town is all built of wood, and has a wooden fortification or stockade all round it, so that it is rendered close and unhealthy, and one cannot see the fine river which is its only beauty : I ought, certainly, to except the Golden Dagon Pagoda, which is a very striking object—it stands upon a conical hill, seventy-five feet above the road, and is itself three hundred and thirty-eight feet high, surmounted by a cap made of brass, forty-five feet high. The whole

is richly gilded, and produces an effect I have not seen equalled in any place which I have yet visited, being really a magnificent object.

“ It was soon found, that although no body of troops advanced against our invading army, the enemy were by no means contemptible in their means of defence; which was universally that of evacuating every town and village where supplies of food or forage could have been obtained, driving the inhabitants into the neighbouring forests, and there employing both men and women in forming stockades (which you would call wooden castles) from which to annoy us in all directions. Now, as our people had no provisions, as these parties were so formed that they described a perfect though distant cordon round Rangoon, and you must remember that in Miss Edgeworth’s excellent story of the ‘ Barring Out,’ heroes *full* and heroes *fasting* are very different persons,—you must see that sufferings from disease and want, as well as

from the irruption of concealed parties, soon placed our handful of gallant troops in a very distressing situation.

“ Of course all this would have been foreseen and provided against, if we had not been misled by false information, which gave our Government to understand that the people here were discontented, and would be glad to escape from the oppressive government under which they lived, in consequence of conquest ; and also that the Siamese would not fail to render us aid in retrenching the power of so bad a neighbour. Neither of these expectations was realized : the inhabitants were too well guarded by their masters ; the Siamese too much afraid of joining the weaker side to venture on assisting us : and it is certain the Court of Ava laughed at our advances, and held us as a band of enthusiasts, who could only annoy those poor subjects whose properties and lives are wholly without value in their sight.

“ We know, indeed, that his Majesty said ‘ he would take such measures ’ that the English should not prevent the women of Rangoon from cooking their rice ; but though mistaken in this, he soon covered the river Irrawaddy with war-boats and arms, and succeeded in the plan of defence and annoyance I have described : whether he can do more, and present similar means at every halting-place, I know not ; but since reinforcements, though not large ones, have arrived, and the rainy season is past, I am sure our brave general will push on,—especially as I have the satisfaction of saying, that we have never yet advanced upon one of their stockades without taking it, and the kind way in which we treat all the poor wretches we find there, cannot fail to have a good effect, and insure us the confidence of the people.

“ I must conclude this letter with an anecdote of an accident which happened before I

left Bengal, but which the important circumstance of my removal had led me nearly to forget.

“ We were encamped in a jungle to halt for a day’s rest, when our little company was thrown into alarm by the information that a tiger was near us,—as the body of a native, killed and partly devoured, had just been found by a soldier. Two officers instantly arose, and, calling two or three men, proposed to go in search of the monster ; and I immediately begged to join them, taking the arms necessary for the purpose. We were attended by three natives of the infantry (besides a piquet-guard of Europeans), because they understand the habits of this ferocious animal, and are quick in detecting his lair ; and we had proceeded but a very little distance when one of them gave the alarm, and Captain ——, to whom I was speaking, immediately pointed out to me what appeared like the bright twinkling of two glow-worms, from some

The Young Padel,

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brushwood opposite. I was instantly aware these were the glaring eyes of the tiger, but, not seeing his huge carcase, did not feel the terror it was well calculated to inspire; and though I prepared to fire, yet I foolishly wished he would have come out and made sport for us, —when just as my piece went off, the creature sprung from the spot where he lay, and at one bound vaulted clean over my head (being on higher ground than that we occupied) and seized on one of the native troops just behind me. Captain —, with admirable presence of mind, instantly turned and lodged the contents of his piece in the body of the tiger, who fell dead upon his victim. There was a ball found in the animal's shoulder, which we thought must have been mine, and had perhaps caused that tremendous spring which cost the poor man his life. On examining him, we found the bones of his skull literally crushed by the fangs of the tiger :—commend me to fifty Burmese rather than

one of these gentry ! So far as I can learn, the woods around us are not infested by them, which is a great comfort : farther up they are known to be numerous.

“ I will write by every possible conveyance, and can truly assure you that I am in health and spirits, and full of hopes for the success of this my first campaign. So adieu ! With love to all,” &c. &c.

CHAPTER IX.

Account of the Burmese War continued. —An Embassy. —Attack on Kemmandine.—Stockades taken.—People of Rangoon return.—Bandoola’s severity, &c.

[*From Henry to his Father.*]

“ MY DEAR FATHER,

“ SINCE I wrote to my sisters from Rangoon, several important changes have taken place,

which I well know will interest you ; and therefore I shall proceed to give a sort of journal-like detail of our affairs in this quarter.

“ In the first place, we have had two* great men from the court ; who, with much state and gravity, came down here to say, ‘ Why are you come here with ships and soldiers ?’ and to profess ‘ mighty great regard for our king and nation :’ but we very soon found that their whole design was to amuse our chief and gain time for rallying their forces and putting into execution the singular threat of driving us into the sea. In consequence, hostilities recommenced on their departure, and we made successful sallies on many stockades in the neighbourhood ; and afterwards proceeded to Kemmandine, where it happened that we killed one of the deputies. We knew him by the gilt chattah, or umbrella, which distinguishes the great men here. The enemy

* The nobles of Burmah are styled Wongees and Woondochs.

certainly were neither idle nor cowardly, but they suffered greatly; and our success, not only in taking Kemmandine, but disabling numerous stockades, put us in spirits, notwithstanding the distress we experienced from our deficient stores.

“About the end of June, the enemy appeared not only to have recovered these disasters, but to have gained a great accession of force, which was evidently directed against us at Rangoon. Every jungle seemed instinct with life; and constantly so much noise and spirit apparently accompanying their movements, that there was something at once curious and awful in considering how *vast* a body were directing their energies to one point, against so *small* a one as we presented.

“The great Pagoda was our fortress, and occupied by a battalion of Europeans; and about mid-day, 1st of July, we saw the enemy come down towards it with great rapidity. They

commenced firing with jingals and heavy arms ; but on the salute being returned by two field-pieces their progress was checked ; and the Madras infantry, moving forward in the handsomest style, compelled them to a rapid retreat. This unlucky attack had been executed by Sykia Wongee, who was soon after recalled in disgrace ; and the court of Ava began to find they had no contemptible enemy to deal with.

“ Soon after this repulse, we were, by the wise disposition of our force, enabled to attack Kummeroot, defended by Soomka Wongee, who was just sitting down to supper when we arrived ; and though he at first merely ordered his officers ‘ to drive the audacious strangers away,’ yet he afterwards put himself at the head of his troops, with great bravery, but so much ignorance, that a general rout and terrible slaughter ensued. Wongees and Woondockes, officers and men, either fled in all directions, or charged our men in the last fury of despair.

“We found this battle had been more fatal than we had at first apprehended, yet it did not enable us to bring the enemy to terms; but we had the satisfaction of learning that a small expedition, under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Miles, had been attended with great success; as he had not only taken several towns, but persuaded them to place themselves under British protection; so that the inhabitants saved themselves at once from the many horrors the Burmese were suffering, and afforded relief to our distressed troops.

“By degrees, indeed, a few of the former wretched inhabitants of Rangoon returned; and on finding their houses still empty, and a kind reception always given to them, they began to be aware that we were their best friends, and exerted themselves to bring in provisions, for which we always paid them a handsome price. We found assistance, also, from the Carians; who are a race held as the slaves of the soil, and

exempted from military duty, that they may be at liberty to till the ground. They are treated with more than ordinary cruelty by their governors, and we continually found their villages destroyed in the mere wantonness of oppression, since they were never likely to be occupied by us. Their cottages are generally planted on the banks of the Irrawaddy, the overflow of which, however inimical to us, never seems to trouble them. Each dwelling is perched, like a cage, upon a pole, into which a few notches are cut, to answer the purpose of stairs. They are of course miserable dwellings, but well calculated for the safety of the inhabitants from the periodical deluges and the prowling tigers. They are quiet, harmless creatures, but of strong frames and great activity ; we frequently employed them in looking round the country for us, to ascertain the enemy's positions and numbers, and always found their information correct ; and in no one instance

could it be discovered that any report of our own numbers or situation had been given by them. The poor creatures sold us their produce, and felt the difference of being helped by us, and fleeced by the Burmese.

“ I was now attached to a column which proceeded upon Mophee, where we found the splendid mansion of Maha Bandoula, which was built for him when he was coming down to take us all captive at Rangoon. From thence we went to Meondaga, finding every where how destructive had been Bandoula's late march. Miles and miles of stockading showed how busy they had once been in preparing for our reception, and the tracks of elephants proved in different places where they had bivouacked. We ourselves were more like a marauding party of gipsies than an army of British men; and often, when I cast my eyes round on the endless plain or forest which surrounded us, and looked upon the daring few who traversed

it, I thought, ‘ Is it possible that we shall indeed march to the capital of a great empire through a country laid desolate like this ?’ And as first one military achievement, and then another, rose to my mind, I could not forbear thinking, ‘ If we carry our point, we shall surely exceed them all, ancient or modern.’

“ At length we entered one of those magnificent forests of which you can in England form no idea, and which brought us to Sormza, which was evacuated at our approach, although the governor fired a volley to give the idea that he had fought us. This poor man, conscious that he should be condemned, sought to hide himself; but the Prince of Irrawaddy, the king’s brother, entrapped him by sending him a pretended letter of pardon : and whilst reading it, the messenger at one blow struck his head from his body.

“ At Soomza the two native battalions came up to us, and we proceeded to Sarrawah, a populous

town, and the head-quarters of his Burmham Majesty's war-boats, which had been used, it appeared, to convey all the inhabitants to the other side of the Irrawaddy, which is here from seven to eight hundred yards broad. We did all in our power to assure them of protection; but, impelled by their chiefs, we soon saw them move from the banks of the river towards an extensive forest in the distance.

“ It was the great object of our commander to occupy Prome; because at that city he could command the navigation on which depended our stores, now very slender ones. Whither Bandoula had taken himself and his chiefs, we knew not; and our general anxiety was equal to the peculiarities of our painful situation.

“ One morning, we were all delighted by the sound of a heavy cannonade, which, we did not doubt, arose from Brigadier-general Cotton's attack on Doonabew; and in the course of the next two days we were certain, from the flight of the

natives, that something important had occurred, and we pressed forward to ascertain facts on which so much depended. Alas! on the 11th instant we learned, to our great sorrow, that our troops had failed in their attack on that place, which could not be carried without a strong reinforcement. In consequence we were obliged to retrograde, especially when, on examining our stores, it was found that actual starvation must be our fate if we proceeded towards Prome.

“ On the other hand, to reach Donoobew we must cross the Irrawaddy, a wide and rapid river, without means any beyond a few canoes, utterly unequal to convey artillery. However, all wants were supplied by energy and perseverance :—rafts were constructed, stores embarked, and our men cheerfully encountered, and happily triumphed over, all difficulties. We crossed the river and pushed on to Henzedah, where head-quarters were established.

“ From this place I am enabled to send this

letter, which was begun at Rangoon ; I wish I could have concluded it by an account of the fall of Donoobew, but hope to write from thence. Be assured, my dear Sir, that notwithstanding my fatigues and privations I am in good health, and so much attached to my commander and brother-officers, as to be perfectly contented with my situation ; which is one which I am sure *you* would greatly prefer to those of former times, when a conquering army went forth to ravage their little all from a ruined people, and returned to spend in idle luxury the fruits of their robbery. Far, *far* different has been the conduct of all engaged in this laborious expedition ; and, whatever may be its result, I trust you will never blush that your son was engaged in it.

“ I am, my dearest parents,” &c. &c.

Scarcely had Henry despatched his letter by a conveyance with an Armenian merchant, when he was again called upon for exertion, as the

army continued to move upon Donoobew, which they reached about the end of the week. They found its stockade extended a mile along the sloping bank of the Irrawaddy, composed of solid teak beams, seventeen feet high, with numerous guns and swivels well-mounted, whilst the garrison was protected by a number of well-contrived excavations.

“ Ah !” said Henry to himself, “ this Bandoola has made better work here than we could expect ! What can be done against *this* ?” And the more he examined, the more formidable did the barrier appear. With their usual energy, the soldiers pitched the camp ; and although the enemy kept up a heavy fire on their first appearance, it was observable that it ceased whilst they were thus employed. This circumstance happily excited suspicion ; and when day declined, both our officers and men anxiously endeavoured to discover the cause of such an unusual and unnatural calm succeeding to the first spirited attack.

CHAPTER X.

Attack and repulse of the enemy.—Cruelty to their men.—Arrival of the Flotillas.—War elephants employed.—Bandoola killed.—Donoobew taken.—Inhabitants gain confidence in the British.—Provisions procured.—Another deceitful messenger.—Superstition of the Natives. •

ABOUT ten o'clock at night, the loud war cry of the enemy assured the British camp that their surmises had been just; and the wearied soldiers seized their muskets and rushed out to battle with such good effect, that although the Burmese returned often to the charge, they were always repulsed with great loss, whilst we had only three men killed and twenty wounded.

The following day it was evident that they were endeavouring to repair their misfortunes, and the Burmese governor (as usual) was de-

priving those unfortunate men of their heads who had failed in effecting his wishes, such being the general conduct of the state. On the 27th, to the great joy of our Indian army, their flotilla was seen in full sail up the river, and the enemy of course came out in considerable force, and were with equal spirit met by our cavalry. Henry was exceedingly pleased to see this morning, for the first time, what he considered a regular specimen of Indian warfare, as seventeen war elephants, fully caparisoned, and bearing their full complement of armed men, advanced in the most majestic manner.

It was curious to observe the wise conduct of these animals, which were met by our horse artillery, and boldly charged. Their riders were nearly all shot; and when they found themselves no longer under guidance, each turned back, and walked to the fort with the utmost composure. During the heavy cannonade that took place at this time, a Burmese officer

being killed at his post, his companions forsook it; on which the Bandoola, stepping down to the spot, severed two of their heads from their bodies, and ordered them to be stuck up on the spot, "to encourage the others."

Several days now passed without any thing decisive occurring; but on the second of April, a Lascar who had been a prisoner in the fort, ran out, and declared "that Bandoola was killed, and that the garrison had fled in the night; and a very little farther enquiry proved the truth of this report. It appeared that the Bandoola went into his observatory the morning before, and lay down upon a couch to give some orders to his chiefs. At this moment the English began to throw bombs, and one falling near to the Wongee, burst, and killed him on the spot. His body was instantly removed and burnt; but as soon as his death was known, the soldiers refused to fight under any other commander, and every individual had fled, but

yet with great silence—a circumspection honourable to their prudence.

The cruelties of which Maha Bandoola was guilty rank him with Ali Pacha, but he must be allowed to have been a clever and courageous man. Donoobew, where he had declared “he would conquer or die,” now fell without farther struggle into the hands of the British force, which lost no time in returning to the position it had left on the way to Prome. After passing Monghee, Sembuen, &c., they reached Huddadoo, from which Henry despatched the following letter:—

[Henry's letter to his brother John.]

“DEAR JOHN,

“We have at length reached one place in this wide country, where there is a beautiful landscape, bounded in the distant horizon by the mountains of Arracan. Yesterday evening we had an elderly man from Prome, in the character

of a diplomatist, who told our chief, "that his court was frightened out of its wits, and we might do what we pleased with them." He was however a little tipsy; but he was attended by two attawwoons or counsellors from the court, who testified to the King's desire of making peace.

"Prome, May 28.

"The above messenger, like all other Burmese deputies, proved a false one, who only sought to deceive us until they should have gained a sufficient force to defend Prome, or induce us to abandon our intention. He did not however carry his point; for, being impatient to proceed before the setting in of the rainy season, we pushed forward, and had for some time a most beautiful country around us, washed by the magnificent Irrawaddy. On the twenty-fourth we arrived at Daringa-boy-ah, from whence we saw the heights of Prome, and our flotilla lying at anchor close by the town; and now we had

again a messenger to talk about peace, but we had no doubt this embassy was as treacherous as the rest. All the higher ranks among this people are insincere and dishonourable : they seem to me to think clever lying an actual virtue.

“ Sir Archibald Campbell, convinced of their treachery, marched forward towards Meady, but, the rainy season commencing, turned back to Promé, where we are established in winter quarters, just as you are beginning to make hay and enjoy your summer. The utmost care has been taken to soothe and encourage the inhabitants to return, who had fled to the jungles, or been driven away by their chiefs ; and I rejoice to say they are now pouring in from every quarter, bringing their families, cattle, and property with them. Every where they find their houses unoccupied, good offers made for their produce, and perfect safety for their persons, which they never have enjoyed under their own government. When we contrast our present situation—

in a good town, with an excellent bazaar, plains covered with cattle in its neighbourhood, and a confiding population around us—with our situation at Rangoon, we cannot be sufficiently thankful for the change.

“ At home, I find the Burmese (accustomed to military habits and constant depredation) is but an idle fellow, and indebted to his wife for much of the labour necessary to his station ; but he is extremely temperate, and of course his wants are easily supplied. They have little religion, but much superstition ; and it is said, that the grunting of an elephant will set aside the most serious deliberation of state. They have a corps termed ‘ Invulnerable ’ in their army, some of whom were fond of dancing in the most ridiculous manner on the stockades, by way of defiance to our guns ; and, although the poor rogues too often found they were not *invulnerable*, no sooner was one shot than another was found ready to exhibit the same folly.

“ Whether they will find means to renew the war soon, or permit us to go on to Ummerra-poora when the rainy season subsides, we have yet to learn ; at present, they continue to treat us with that contempt it is no part of John Bull’s character to bear. Whatever occurs, depend upon hearing it from your affectionate brother,” &c.

CHAPTER XI.

Great force collected by the Burmese King.—Another Embassy.—Henry’s description of it.—An Armistice granted.—Treachery of the Burmese.—Hostilities recommenced —Three Generals.—Three Ladies.—Attack and total rout of the enemy.

THE disposition of the Burmese King not subjecting him to feel for the distresses of his subjects, and the flatterers around him continuing to uphold in him the belief of his eventual success, he now exerted himself to the utmost in procuring forces from the provinces bordering on

China, where (being perfectly ignorant of the state of the war) they might be easily imposed upon. Such was his anxiety to procure soldiers, that he actually paid them a bounty, a thing hitherto utterly unknown : and it was certain, that in every other way he also sought to draw such a force around his capital, as would not only protect that city, but annihilate those who presumed to besiege it ; and before the end of September, the British force became aware that the whole collected power of the Empire was put in array against them.

In the beginning of October, the head-quarters of our army were established at Meady, from whence a mission was despatched to the King, pointing out the ruinous consequences to himself of prolonging the war. In answer to this, he despatched a complimentary mission, who said they came " to speak good words," and to say, " the King also had a desire for peace."

Two British officers were then despatched to

the Kee Wongee, or prime minister, and a meeting, duly authorized by both parties, was agreed upon; and on the day appointed the commissioners, with their proper guards, were encamped upon the plain of Neaun-ben-zeik, about a mile distant from each other. Of this curious meeting Henry gave the following account to his sister Selina.

“ I wish, my dear girl, you could have seen the meeting which took place yesterday between the Wongees of Ava and Sir Archibald Campbell and his staff. The Burmese mission consisted of fifteen nobles, arrayed in most splendid court-dresses, and with gold chains indicating their rank. Each party was encamped about a mile from the other, and after various preliminary points had been adjusted, both parties leaving camp at the same moment met in front of the conference-house, when they shook hands in the most amicable manner. It was a splendid and imposing sight, and in its own nature in-

teresting, as the prelude to that peace which would put an end to so many miseries ; but they are such cheats, that really even *now* I do not believe they are in earnest. When their flourish of friendship was over, they walked into the house, and sat down with great gravity on a row of chairs, opposite to that which was occupied by the British officers, which, being a kind of seat they had never used before, was, I doubt not, a very unpleasant penance. They used many expressions of regard, ‘ could not imagine,’ (the innocents!) ‘ how two such enlightened nations had happened to mistake each other, but begged to defer till the next day all particular business, in order that they might become better acquainted with their new friends.’

“ Well, next day Sir A. Campbell told them all his complaints, his instructions as to pursuing his plan of operations. In their answer, they told lies, and laughed when they were found

out, and at length begged 'an armistice of twenty days, in order to lay every particular before their king.' It was very evident to our people that this conference would lead to no immediate peace; but they rejoiced in having a clear communication with the court, and especially in an opportunity of proving to the Burmese sovereign their own probity and resolution.

"These important diplomatists dined with Sir Archibald Campbell, and really proved themselves a shrewd, intelligent party, from the manner in which they observed and imitated the actions of the British; whilst in their conversation equal pains were taken to class the two great and civilized nations together;—oughty civilized truly, to drive their poor women and children into the woods, and force them to work at the stockades. I must do them the justice, however, to say, that although they eat of every thing, they were very temperate with regard to wine, which I am certain they were

longing to indulge in, for all the Burmese like their glass when they can get it. They departed expressing strong desires for peace, but we all doubt the truth of their professions. As I cannot send this letter at present, I shall put it bye and tell you how we go on."

* * * *

In continuation.

"As soon as we returned to Promé, information was given us from all quarters of the irruption of numerous bands of Burmese upon the line of demarcation; and when, towards the end of the armistice, (during which they had been plundering, burning, and laying waste in all directions,) we remonstrated on such conduct, the only answer they made was this; 'If you wish for peace, you may go away; but if you ask either money or territory, no friendship can exist between us;—this is Burmham custom!'

“ You will readily conclude, Selina, that it was not *British custom* to take this answer ; so on receiving it, we began to advance on Meada.

“ All around the country the enemy were now in motion : they had not asked for the armistice for nothing, but having made good use of their time, were coming upon us in three divisions, commanded by Sudda Wosa, the Kce Wongee, and Maha Nemiow, an old experienced general, with authority for the general direction of the army. These chieftains conducted more than forty thousand men, besides having for their aid a great number of war-boats. and in their rear ten thousand men as a reinforcement, under the king's brother, Prince Memiaboo.

“ What a force to oppose us ! it was like the array of men, horses, and dogs, to hunt a poor hare—no farther can the comparison hold, for we had no hare-like properties. Our only object was to meet the enemy in battle ; but

this is the last object of Burmese warfare ; they would not meet *us*, so we were obliged to seek *them*.

“ Maha Nemiow’s corps took post at Wattygorn, from which Colonel M’Dowall sought to dislodge them ; and on this occasion they certainly did meet our troops, and grieved am I to say this gallant officer lost his valuable life ; and although his troops effected their retreat, the Burmese, emboldened by this success, became formidable in character as well as numbers. This commander was a clever, wary old fellow ; and whilst he pursued the old trade of stockading, fearful of losing the reputation he had gained, Sudda Wosa, on the opposite bank, was equally busy. Day never rose without showing some new work ; batteries and entrenchments rose on every side ; they considered us as fish in a net, yet they determined there should not be a loop-hole left for our escape.

“ The corps of Maha Nemiow was composed of the choicest men, headed by Chobwas and petty princes, and, what was exceedingly curious, accompanied by three young, handsome women of high rank, considered by their superstitious countrymen (who are the constant dupes of astrologers and omens) to be endowed with the gifts of prophecy and the miraculous power of turning aside the balls of the English. The sight of these women always brought to my mind the heroines of Tasso’s *Jerusalem Delivered*. They were fine Amazonian figures, and dressed in warlike costumes, rode constantly among the troops, seeking to inspire them with courage and contempt towards a foe to whose power as yet they were strangers.

“ On the 30th November we made a successful attack on the Kee Wongee’s position, and 1st December enabled the Forty-first, and Eighty-ninth regiments to come into action with great effect. You would not understand me even if

CHAPTER XII.

Account continued —Stockades taken.—The flotilla succeeds in capturing the stores.—Cross the river and completely rout the enemy.

[*Letter in continuation.*]

“OUR men had but short time for rest before they were again called into action ; and whilst, in different columns, the Thirty-eighth, Thirteenth, and Eighty-seventh regiments were deliberately possessing themselves of two strong stockades, despite of a heavy fire from their summits, our flotilla succeeded in capturing all the boats and stores brought down for the use of the Burmese army.

“THE defeat of the enemy on the Irrawaddy was now complete ; and so closely had our success been followed on land, that the enemy was

driven from point to point, and hill to hill, at the point of the bayonet, and the corps of Sudda Wosa alone, of all this mighty array, remained unpunished.

“ Betwixt us and this general lay a broad and rapid river, and so well had he managed his stockades, and the advantages of his ground, that we could not discover the situation of his men. On the morning of the 5th. we succeeded, notwithstanding all our difficulties, in crossing the river, attacking the stockades, and, seconded by a cannonade from the men-of-war's boats, soon drove them from their first line of stockades to the second. Following up this advantage, we now found they were disheartened and confused, and the second line of stockades was soon deserted for the jungle behind them; into which, with terrible loss, they fled with amazing rapidity; and it is certain that the nature of the ground alone enabled any to make good their escape.

man nor beast; we found the stockades there unoccupied by the enemy, and remarked that the corpses of the Sepoys killed in our unsuccessful attack, were generally deprived of their heads, which have most probably been forwarded to the capital. From thence we proceeded to Seezengoa, encountering no enemy but the rain, which proved indeed a severe one, as, in addition to being compelled to wade through a jungle of elephant grass fifteen or twenty feet high, it so deluged our men, that symptoms of severe disease speedily attacked us. To add to our distress, we could not find one spot of open ground on which to pitch a tent, and quantities of biscuit and rice were ruined by the wet.

“ These, my dear brother, are indeed the worst hardships of a soldier, for they deprive him of that energy which subdues all other difficulties. I was myself, on this occasion, among the sufferers; and sorely did I feel the want of our home

nursing, and old Mary's toast and gruel : but I must not indulge in these recollections, nor will I now remember how my heart ached with compassion towards those fine fellows, who had endured so much and fought so bravely, when I saw them, with pale cheeks and shaking limbs, the effects of cholera, again set out to march.

“ In a short time we gained a dry pleasant ground, on which we halted for our commissariat. The place (Seindoop) abounded in game, and we encamped on a ridge of hills, so that we had every comfort, but still not a creature was seen, the town being evacuated and partly burned. We went thence to Towkendine, where we found a piquet of the enemy ; but they retreated as we advanced, and we proceeded unmolested to Tabboo.

“ Here we were joined by the Madras division, which we found had been suffering much from cholera ; but on our proceeding to Meaday,

our own recent sufferings were forgotten in the terrible scene around us. The ground was strewn with the dying and the dead; the jungles were filled with dogs and vultures, met to prey on the remains; and the pestilential smell rendered the whole scene still more horrible. Yet even here had the detestable despotism of the government added new miseries to those of war, for we found numerous gibbets on which the bodies of crucified victims were mouldering, who had been thus executed for circumstances they could not control, and evils they could not obviate.

“For more than fifty miles up the river, similar scenes presented themselves, from which we vainly sought to fly. We were then constrained to remain, as we had no longer any beef, and it became necessary to halt, and seek that supply from the long harassed and wandering natives, which they alone could furnish us with. Alas! we were traversing a wilderness from which man-

kind appeared to have fled ; our little camp of two thousand appeared but as a speck in the wide deserts which surrounded us, and not a head of cattle or a living thing seemed to approach us,—we were isolated even in society ; and, but that an occasional shot from the river reminded us of our aid from that quarter, we should have felt our situation still more oppressive.

“ On the twenty-sixth instant, a flag of truce was once more sent to us, after we had travelled one hundred and forty miles, without communication with an inhabitant, on the once populous banks of the beautiful Irrawaddy. i

“ Two officers visited Mellome to arrange a meeting with the new negotiator, but they did not succeed in making any agreement. The division moved forward to Patanagh, a town opposite to Mellome, on the other bank of the river, where they found a gilt pagoda erected to the memory of Maha Bendoola. Under the stockade a large fleet of war-boats and craft of every description

lay at anchor ; and in an instant the sound of gongs, drums, and warlike instruments drew our attention ; whilst crowds of boatmen were seen running in all directions. The flotilla, led by the Diana steam-vessel, was now seen passing by the enemy's works, without a shot being fired on either side, and soon after two gilt war-boats pushing off received the Diana with every honour.

“ At length, then, there did appear a sincere desire for peace ; and not long after, an appointment was made, and a new delegate from the King was met in the middle of the river, which was the place fixed upon for the conference.

“ The countenance of this man was cunning and keen, and contrasted strongly with that of the Kee Wongee who accompanied him, a handsome, frank, soldierlike man. In answer to our demand of one crore of rupees, this person, Kolehing Menghi, replied, ‘ In war the expense is not all on one side ; we have expended im-

mense sums, and our treasury is drained and exhausted :’ and when told ‘ that every English soldier cost Government nearly two hundred pounds, and that every one of the ships which went to Rangoon cost an immense sum,’ he answered, ‘ I have been a merchant, but none of my vessels cost as much as you speak of; but whether or not, we cannot give what you ask : we can give you a million baskets of rice, and fine trees from our forests; but we do not grow rupees, and therefore cannot give what you require.’

“ In this way the wary negotiator parried every request of ours, and four long meetings and discussions took place, before any positive settlement could be made; these proud and insolent aggressors stooping to downright begging in order to evade our demands: but at length all preliminaries were adjusted; the delivery of prisoners and the payment of the first instalment of money agreed to. During this interval a friend-

ly intercourse was carried on between the two camps ; notwithstanding which, we perceived that the enemy still kept strengthening their defences, as if they did not know whether the court would ratify the agreement.

“ On the seventeenth came three officers of state, (two Attawoons and a Woondock,) who told our commissioners, that, owing to some mistake, the treaty had never reached Ummerapoorah ; which was such a glaring falsehood that our commissioners had no doubt some treachery was intended. They next proposed to pay four lacks of tichals,* provided the British would return to Prome ; but this was positively refused : next, they wished for a delay of six days ; but this also was refused : and on the day following, as the armistice had expired, three of our officers informed the Wongeese, that, as they had broken all their promises, at twelve that night hostilities would recommence, and

* A tichal is rather more than a rupee.

be persisted in until they atoned for their perfidy and deception.

“ At that very hour, you may depend upon it, my dear John, we were all on the alert ; every man was engaged in throwing up batteries or landing the ordnance from the flotilla, which was all done during the night, and at eleven o'clock next morning twenty-eight pieces of artillery were firing upon them without intermission.

“ The first Bengal brigade embarked below their stockade, and was carried on by the force of the current under all the fire of the place, before it could be assisted by the others,—poor fellows ! our very hearts ached for them ; but soon the other brigades moved forward to the assault with a steady courage that could not fail to strike the enemy, and in a very short time they all entered by escalade and established themselves in the interior.

“ How I wish, my dear John, you had been with us at that glorious moment, when this

handful of gallant fellows was seen driving a dense multitude of from ten to fifteen thousand men out from a place of such prodigious strength as this stockade; it was a victory to be proud of during one's lifetime—when this was done, it is no wonder that, one after another, every stockade was forced.

“ In the house of Prince Memaboo, cash to the amount of between thirty and forty thousand rupees was found,—a proof that he thought the fortification irresistible. All his stud was likewise taken; but the most curious thing found, and what puts their meanness and treachery beyond all doubt, was, that the *treaty*, in both its English and Burmese form, with every other document, lay in the house, and had evidently never been forwarded to the King.

“ Memaboo and his beaten army retired with all haste, and our commander prepared to follow him; but he first despatched a messenger with the treaty to the Kee Wongee, to show him

that their tricks were detected. The Wongee politely thanked the commander, and observed, 'That in the hurry of abandoning the place, a large sum of money also had been left, which he was sure the British general would soon take an opportunity of returning!'—Now was not that a capital Burmese joke?

“ Well, my boy! once more we set forward, over ground worse than ever, and at length reached Zayman-gheouan, when the hopes we had indulged of the good effects to be expected from our late exploit were realized. On the thirty-first came from the capital, Doctor Price, an American missionary, Surgeon Sandford, and four other prisoners of war, returned as a complement from the King. You never saw such uncouth objects as these poor fellows: their hair had not been cut, nor their beards shaven, since they were taken. It seems they had been sent for to the Golden Palace, and asked to take a message to the English camp; and

after many of their usual evasions, at length they were sent; and after conversing with our commander, the delegates returned, in the full hope of concluding an advantageous peace.

“From all we could now learn, the King had been sincere in his desire for peace before the treaty at Mellome; yet it was certain that the ill conduct of the Arracan chiefs, which caused the war had the full sanction of his Majesty. We also learned that plans had been laid for the entire conquest of Bengal, which Maha Bandoola undertook to accomplish with one hundred thousand men. So certain were they of success in the prosecution of this plan that Bandoola actually marched into Arracan provided with golden fetters, in which the Governor-general of India was to be led captive to Ava. I am sure you would as little like the idea as myself, of our venerable Marquis wearing these Burmese bracclets. At the time

we heard the news, it served us of course to laugh at.

“ But our work was not yet done : we had the pain of learning that a detachment commanded by Colonel Conray, at Zitoung, had been worsted, and that good officer and another killed : every means was applied which could remedy this disaster, and we again proceeded towards the capital, which we understood was fortifying on every side. We also learned that forty thousand men were assembled, and a new army raising, called ‘ Retrievers of the King’s Glory,’ which was placed under a savage warrior called Nee-Woon-Breen, which has been translated to us variously, as ‘ Prince of Darkness,’—‘ King of Hell.’

“ On the eight instant we were told that this warrior was advancing to meet us, and in the night our advanced-guard was met in the jungle by a body of skirmishers, and a kind of running

fight' was maintained till we emerged into the open country, and discovered the Burmese army, from sixteen to twenty thousand strong, drawn up as an inverted crescent, the wings of which threatened our little body on either flank.—Remember, John, we were not then two thousand strong, for sickness as well as fighting had thinned our numbers.—Undismayed, our brave commander pushed boldly forward to their centre, which was vigorously and instantly overthrown, leaving the two wings separated from each other. The British column, following this advantage, pursued them to their works, where they were again routed with great slaughter, hundreds jumping into the river: and, with the exception of between two and three thousand men, this great army was dispersed on the spot: the general, Nee-Woon-Breen, no sooner reached home than he was cruelly put to death by the King's order.

“ On the evening of the thirteenth, Mr. Price

and Mr. Sandford came once more to announce that the King and court had given in; that the last defeat had deprived them of all hope of a successful termination, and his object now was to make the best terms he could. According to custom, the Burmese prevaricated, delayed, and begged, but our commander insisted on compliance with his terms: Mr. Price returned, and we advanced.

“ We now saw around us a most beautiful country, watered by the Irrawaddy, and adorned with evergreen woods and beautiful villages, to which pagodas, temples, and monasteries, gave an air of grandeur, which, combined with the beauty of the country, rendered the landscape magnificent.

“ Such was the scenery which surrounded us, and it was probably of the same description the rest of the way to Ummerapoora. When at a distance of only forty-five miles from that capital, we were met by Mr. Price and two

ministers of state, accompanied by the prisoners and Mr. Judson and his wife, Americans, together with the stipulated sum, twenty-five lacs of rupees. So here the war may be said to have terminated: we obtained that which we had asked, and were too honourable to ask for more in the hour of success, or to trample on those whom we had humbled.

“ I will not deny, my dear brother, that after having come so far, and achieved so much, not a few of us were sorry to go back without seeing this proud capital, this ‘ Golden City,’ whose riches many had doubtless wished to share. I am sure I had no desire for any part of the spoil, still less did I wish to see any more of the miseries of war, for I grieve too much for the sufferers to increase what I had witnessed; but I should have liked to see the tyrant and his bloody-minded, deceitful servants at our feet, I do confess.

“ When I am older and wiser, I shall be

undoubtedly content with all things as they now are, and rejoice in that we have subdued without utterly ruining our enemies; for such was the conclusion of our brave commander. Were I to tell you half his good qualities I must write volumes, not letters;—my dear brother, he is alike brave and humane, wise and bold,—in short, a true Christian hero.

“ One thing reconciles me much to our proceeding no farther;—it is the certainty that we should have found neither King nor people. No; they would have evacuated the place, have led us a dance, from one stockade to another, till the rainy season had set in, and our little force, unsubdued in spirit, but worn out with toil and sickness, must have dropped on the soil they had conquered.

“ And now farewell, my dear brother; I am about to return to Bengal, where I shall probably be able in a short time to satisfy my great desire of travelling; in which case, be

assured, I will send you every particular of my observations. I long to visit the antiquities of Decca, and, above all, to see the wonders of Elora. Nothing can exceed the kindness of my superior officers ; indeed such is their consideration for me, that, trifling as my exertions have been when compared to others, they are yet pleased to commend me, and my colonel is at this very moment writing to my father to that purpose. Adieu ! at Rangoon I shall perhaps find time to give Selina a few lines, after which you will not hear of me probably for some time, but you will know that I am collecting materials for your future amusement.

“ Ever truly yours, &c.

“ H. DELAMERE.”

CHAPTER XIV.

Henry writes to his sister.—Escape from a Cobra-de-Capello.—Arrival in Calcutta.—Dancing girls.—Dancing serpents.

“ MY DEAR SELINA,

“ Calcutta.

“ I RECOLLECT saying to my brother, in my last, that I would write to you from Rangoon, but it so happened that I was not called to the disagreeable task of remaining in that place, and I was so fortunate as to find wind and tide in my favour, and every thing conspired to enable me to quit in comfort a country I can never wish to re-enter.

“ I must not, however, omit to mention a circumstance which occurred to me the very last

morning I slept in camp, because I know it will awaken in your kind heart the most sincere thanks to my Almighty Protector for my escape.

“ I had risen, and, as my slippers were close to my bed, had put my right foot into the nearest, when my servant came in to call me. The man saw my left foot protruded towards the other slipper, on which his eye was fixed, and in great terror he uttered a violent cry and ran out of the tent to gain assistance. In the first moment, I fancied the man was seized with madness ; but lo ! up rose from the slipper a Cobra-de-Capello (or hooded snake), rearing its terrific head in nearly a straight line, at less than two feet distance from me, so that a single dart forward would have made me inevitably its victim. I scarcely dared to move, even for security ; and you have no idea, my dear Selina, what long hours even minutes appear in such a situation. Having no weapon of defence, no power to fly, without

approaching my enemy still nearer, all I could do was to watch his motions, by fixing my eyes on the malignant stars which beamed 'in the head of this terrific creature. My power of doing this, was fast ebbing away, and I certainly experienced those sensations ascribed to fascination, when my faithful James returned with a Sepoy, who, armed only with a bamboo-cane, cleverly killed the snake in a moment.

“I do not doubt but you know the form of this scourge of the Indies ; nevertheless, I have made you a drawing of it, and also send you a bit of the skin, which is very beautiful and curious. These creatures are from three to eight feet long, and have two large fangs hanging out of the upper jaw ; the head and neck are covered with scales, and the eyes are fiery. The one of which I have spoken was five feet only, and had coiled itself very closely, as you may suppose ; but its bite would not have been the less fatal because it was young.

“ As we proceeded to Calcutta, I had an opportunity of seeing the natives on that part of the coast between Saam and Bengal. They are totally different from any I have seen in Asia, being short, stiff, and hairy, and so uncivilized as to resemble rather the Hottentots of Africa than the inhabitants of Asia. They appeared avaricious, but not ill-natured; and altogether gave so very unfavourable an impression of the human animal, as to be extremely painful to the heart of one who wishes to love all his species.

“ After seeing these savages, and reflecting upon the wiser, but perhaps the more hateful, (because deceitful and tyrannical,) despots of Burmah, an Englishman may be excused for exclaiming, in the language of Mrs. Barbauld —

‘ Man is the nobler growth *our* realms supply,
And souls are ripen’d ’neath *our* northern sky.’

“ Under these recollections you will not be jealous though I confess that I hailed Calcutta as my

dear home; that its white walls, verdant environs, and noble river, afforded me even more delight than when I first beheld it; for, if it had then the charm of a new object, it has now the dearer face of a known friend. Besides, I had known danger, privation, disease, since we parted, and it was no wonder that I rushed to the friends I had left there, with the joy of a sick child to the lap of his mother.

“ During my long absence, our venerable governor has returned to Europe, and many of my own acquaintance are gone also. This is and always must be among the trials which a resident in a distant colony experiences.

“ Last night, my friend, Captain Richardson, with his wonted kindness, took me with him to the house of Sir —, where, for the first time, I saw the celebrated dancing girls of India. I assure you, these ladies are persons of great importance, for they cost, when they are a good band, two or three hundred rupees a

night, and will not go up the country for less than five hundred, which is sixty pounds of our money. They dress very splendidly, wearing silken trowsers, over which there is a very showy, full petticoat, richly embroidered, which flies out in their whirling motions, and gives great effect. Their feet and ankles are bare, but the latter are ornamented with rows of small silver bells, which they move in cadence with their music ; and they have also castanets in their hands, which they manage very adroitly. There are generally four of these females, who alternately relieve each other as they become exhausted with the fatigue of the dance, that being rendered extremely laborious from their custom of singing with it. I assure you, nothing can be more graceful and agile than the motions of these women, who are generally very handsome ; indeed, if you can allow for the dark olive complexion, you would call them beautiful. Their fine tresses of hair, perfumed and adorned

with fragrant flowers, their teeth, of dazzling whiteness, shown between small coral lips of delicate form, together with finely modulated noses, soft yet brilliant eyes, and shapes of the most pliable and elegant construction, give them a right to this praise. When you can get them to dance to their own soft voices, it is really delightful to behold them; but, unfortunately, they are always accompanied by a parcel of fellows who play *tam-tams*, a most execrable kind of little drum, vile guitars, and abominable cymbals, and add to these a most intolerable roaring out with their own voices. These fellows, as they proceed, become so enamoured of their own noise, that their exertions, their gestures, and profuse perspiration, are one moment excessively ludicrous, the next disgusting; they become absolutely convulsed, and make the most hideous grimaces you can conceive; so that nothing in nature can be less accordant, with the graceful or gay motions of

the dancers, who certainly merit a very different style of music.

“ To-day I have witnessed a dance of a very different description, that of serpents. These terrible, beautiful, but to me *detestable* creatures, are caught and tamed by a tribe of musical itinerants, who have the secret of drawing them out of their holes, catching them, and extracting the poison from them. Most probably the art is very ancient, for you know in the Psalms we read of the ‘ deaf adder that stoppeth her ear and will not listen to the voice of the charmer.’ I understand they use the tabor and pipe to draw the reptile from his hole; but how they contrive to render him harmless, remains a secret to all but the initiated. So well do they manage it, that even the Cobra-de-Capello will spread his hood, spring at his master, and actually draw blood by the bite he inflicts on the leg, and the man remain uninjured beyond the slight wound. At another

time a large serpent wound his muscular form round the man's leg and thigh in the most terrific manner, but, on a particular tune being played, unloosed his gripe, and, retreating to his basket, indulged in a comfortable nap, content with having earned his daily food. At the word of command they will fight with each other, or perform those various convolutions called dancing. Several gentlemen present admired their graceful movements, but I must confess that it was to me a very disagreeable sight, and I was heartily glad when the men and their supple *protégées* were gone. My own affair with the Cobra-de-Capello was much too recent for any of his family to be agreeable in my eyes. Besides, I really do think that all the serpent tribe are singularly hateful to man; and I know many brave men who are decidedly of my opinion, and consider it mere affectation and bravado in those who affect to admire this display of their beauty. It is not

less certain that they give proofs of such intelligence that we cannot be surprised that Our Lord called them *wise*, and that one should be pitched upon by the Evil Spirit as the vehicle of his designs when he sought the ruin of man.

“ And now, my dear girl, I must say adieu, for I am again going on ship-board, ay ! and for a very long voyage too. Do not deceive yourselves and think I am coming to England, though I am going to sail thitherwards. No, no ; many a long day must pass before the dear shores of my native land meet my view ; but I am happy to say that I am going to Bombay, where I shall be stationed for some time. I count myself singularly lucky in a circumstance which will enable me to see so much of our settlements ; and it shall go hard with me but I will go from thence to Elora, the most wonderful place in the world for its excavations. Captain Seely has written a very clever book

about them, and I am impatient to see them ; and I understand the thing is much more practicable now than it was when he accomplished it, owing to the increased power and influence of the Company in that quarter. Whatever I see, and wherever I may be, you will be present to my thoughts ; and whatever I can relate to give you pleasure, be assured, will never be omitted, by

“ Your most affectionate,

“ HENRY.”

CHAPTER XV.

Voyage to Bombay.—Madras.—Pondicherry.—Goa, new and old cities.—Convent.—Tomb of Xavier.—Departure from Goa.—Arrive at Bombay.—Beautiful neighbourhood.—Good living and hospitality.—He determines to visit the caves of Elora.

[*Henry to his brother John.*]

“ Bombay.

“ **HERE** I am, my dear brother, after such a delightful voyage, that had I not known what it was to see old Ocean in a rage, I never could have believed that so fair a mirror could have been so transformed. The whole voyage was a kind of coasting, as you may suppose ; and there were times when we enjoyed very beautiful views of the country. We put in at Madras, but for so short a time as not to afford me any

new matter for observation. We also stopped at Pondicherry, with which I was much pleased, especially with the surrounding rice-ground, which exceeded any thing I have seen in India ; the port is however very bad ; we had great difficulty in landing and afterwards in regaining our ship, the flux and reflux of the tide on a sandy shore being very troublesome and dangerous.

“ I was sorry not to see the island of Ceylon again, but was highly gratified by being permitted to accompany a brother officer to the interesting city of Goa, where we stayed a day and night. There is an old and new town of Goa, and time was, that no European settlement in India could vie with this, the metropolis of Portuguese possessions. The port is considered the finest in the Indies ; and no expense has been spared to fortify it with castles and towers, which are abundantly furnished with good cannon. We entered the outer harbour in a small coasting vessel, called a patamare, and rowed rapidly up

a second reach, where stands modern Goa, in the appearance of which I was much disappointed. It is some miles below the old city, which was our object of curiosity, and it was necessary that we should apply to the governor here for permission to see it. We remarked that the inhabitants looked poor and indolent, yet proud and affected; and there appeared scarcely any thing going on amongst them indicative of that commerce they once undoubtedly enjoyed.

“Having obtained permission we proceeded, and were delighted with the thick plantations of the cocoa-nut (which is always graceful) that clothed the bank on either side of the water, and from the midst of which we soon saw the churches and monasteries, the palaces and prisons, of old Goa peering out. In this place the horrors of the Inquisition were for many years practised in the most cruel manner, and it is therefore no wonder that it is forsaken as much as possible by all mankind. There is yet an air about it of

great interest, the palaces of the archbishop and viceroy, a magnificent square, (in the centre of which *auto-da-fes* have been performed,) and the numerous convents, all wearing the appearance of loneliness and desolation, of decaying grandeur and melancholy seclusion, which, for the time we view them, cannot fail to awaken our regret. Besides, in this place repose the bones of Francis Xavier, called the 'Apostle of the Indies,' and whose zeal in the propagation of Christianity entitles him to our admiration and gratitude. Vasco de Gama also, the brave adventurer who first weathered the Cape of Good Hope, and opened the way for the great Albuquerque, (who made himself master of Goa,) ended his days here, crowned with the honours he merited.

" Our first business was to find our way to the Augustine convent, for whose superior we had a letter of introduction. Never shall I forget the deep, full sound of its melancholy vesper-bell as

we entered the church, which was large and magnificent. Nothing could be more striking than the contrast between the place of worship, and the small number of worshippers. The priest, the chanters, and even the tinkling bell used in their service, seemed oppressed by the silence of the place, and unequal to filling the vast cavity around them.

“ After prayers, whilst a servant was despatched with the letter, we walked round the cloisters, which are adorned with paintings in fresco, the subjects being generally the martyrdom of the brethren of the order. On my expressing a desire to find the tomb of Francis Xavier, a young sacristan led me to a dark chapel which contains it. It is richly ornamented, but his ashes are said to be contained in a silver chest above, around which lamps of silver are hung. Below this, are four reliefs beautifully wrought in bronze, describing his preaching to the idolaters, his baptism of the converts, his per-

secution, and death. It was impossible not to feel affected by the memory of a man so nobly devoted to the cause of Christ, and to lament that he belonged to a church which could make the ground-work of his labours the foundation on which to raise the most terrible of all tribunals.

“ After leaving the tomb, we were conducted to the senior brother of the Augustine monks, who was polite even to officiousness, and gave us some excellent Lisbon wine and biscuits. He was by birth an Indian, of a deep yellow complexion, and probably from a distant province, as the natives of Goa are of a shining black complexion. He was a man of no information whatever, as my companion, who spoke his language, assured me; and indeed the way in which he carried and exhibited a large bunch of keys, showed me that he had much more of the old housekeeper about him than the student. He gave us, however, excellent beds,

with fine linen, which in this sultry climate is a great luxury, and showed us every possible kindness.

“ The next morning we rose at the sound of the same deep-mouthed bell, and went down into the cathedral, where we found the canons in their stalls, the sacristans, vespers, and choristers in their places, and the dean officiating. One old Portuguese gentleman and ourselves constituted the congregation. Afterwards we breakfasted with the monks, and then set out to inspect the city. Within a walk of two miles we saw seven fine churches, and found every where the complement of pastors belonging to the establishment, with their black or white robes, small caps, silk cassocks, red scarfs, and glittering vestments; but where were their flocks? In one place we saw a few common black native Christians, and in another a few Indian-Portuguese, but the rest of the churches were desolate.

The convents, in like manner, are nearly deserted, not one of them having their brotherhood complete. The palaces are sinking rapidly, and grass grows all over the streets. The black natives are a fine grown people, of athletic frame, with curling hair, white teeth, and bright, cunning eyes. The general character of the inhabitants of Goa is very bad; they are proud, indolent, fierce, and revengeful, and the women are said to understand the practice of poisoning but too well. Altogether, our little excursion was one of great interest and pleasure, and the return to our ship most delightful, in the views it presented on either side of this fine harbour; the fortifications are indeed magnificent, and the channel in running up the country divides it into beautiful little islands and bays, abounding with verdure.

“ On the third 'day after this, we arrived at Bombay, which, like Goa, was once in the possession of the Portuguese, and was given to

Charles II. as a part of the marriage portion of his Queen. The clergy then resident objected to the town being possessed by English heretics, and it was a long time before the affair was settled ; and when that was done, the crown found it best to make it over to the East India Company, who consider it their third settlement.

“ I was much pleased with the docks, on my arrival at Bombay, but the town did not strike me in the same way as Calcutta had done, but I saw in a moment it was infinitely superior to Madras. A three weeks' stay has rendered me decisive in preferring it even to the former, for the rides about it are most beautiful. The mighty range of mountains called the Ghauts, or Gauts, which run within a distance of about an average of fifty miles from the shore, all down this coast, have a wonderful effect on the landscape every where, and the different kind of buildings occasioned by such a variety of inhabitants, spread over the face of the country ob-

jects of the most curious and captivating nature, so that you are never wearied of inspecting them.

“ We have here ruinous convents and monasteries erected by its first conquerors the Portuguese, noble country-houses of Englishmen, Mahratta fortresses, Hindoo pagodas, and Mahometan mosques. The villages of the Hindoos are patches of rich cultivation, on which the eye rests with delight ; and we have groves of cocoa-nut and date-trees, rich in all the luxuriant pride of vegetation.

“ If we turn our eyes towards the sea, we have a fine sandy beach and a beautiful isthmus in view, called Malabar Point, thickly studded with villas ; and within fourteen miles is a pleasant little island called Salsette, on which there is a military station ; so that we have a charming sea-breeze, and the most pleasant water excursions you can possibly conceive.

“ There is also another great advantage in Bombay over Calcutta, which affects persons with

families very much, and is of consequence even to a young fellow like me. The servants in Bengal will only do one thing for you ; and, let the necessity be ever so urgent, not one of them will do the least piece of service except that for which they are expressly hired ; so that an incredible number must be kept, which is in itself a great nuisance. The Bombay servant is precisely worth five of the Calcutta menials. Every material for the table is had in abundance, and very reasonable ; the houses also are larger than the Calcutta houses, but I have not hitherto thought the parties quite so pleasant, which may be owing to the wider range in which hospitality is practised, and of which it would ill become me to complain. My whole mind is now bent on visiting the celebrated excavations of Elora, which, so far as I can learn, far exceed what Belzoni has recited of those in Egypt, and even what Captain Mangles visited

in Arabia Petræa. There is a work on the subject in the British Museum, which you may remember was shown to my father when we were with him, but we were then such little boys I can remember but few of the plates, nevertheless the impression they made upon me remains the same, and I feel inclined to encounter any dangers rather than omit seeing them whilst I remain on this station.* I believe I am at present not more than three hundred miles from Elora, which lies within a few miles of Auringabad, which is itself well worth visiting. The great difficulty is that of reaching the place, the road to it being in the possession of the Mahrattas, who are a people so savage and uncivilized, that there is just cause to apprehend danger when travelling without a military guard. However, I must venture; and

* Mr. Daniell's Views from Sketches by Mr. Wales. a most elaborate and magnificent work.

as we are now at peace, and apparently, indeed, in friendship with them, I must hope for the best.

“ Adieu ! believe me your most affectionate brother, &c. &c.

“ HENRY DELAMERE.”

CHAPTER XVI.

Sets out for Elora.—Visits Elephanta.—Pleasant sail to Panwell.—Proceeds on horseback.—The Ghauts.—The Temple of Karli.—Arrives at Poonah.—Pursues his way to the village of Elora.

[*Henry to his brother John.*]

“ Elora.

“ WELL, my dear John, here I am at last, and oh ! how do I wish that you were with me, that we might gaze together at this most wonderful and stupendous of all the works of man, this Temple of Keylos ! I will, however,

not waste time and paper in exclamations, but proceed regularly to tell you how I have managed to effect my purpose, and arrive at a place where so few have arrived before me.

“ I took Captain Seely’s book for my guide, as I was certain he understood the route necessary ; at least, I wished as nearly as I could to tread in his steps, and therefore I made it a point in the first place to go to the island of Elephanta ; being thus far accompanied by many friends ; so that it was altogether the excursion of a party of pleasure, such parties been frequently made from Bombay.

“ The island has its name from a statue of an elephant, of immense proportions, carved out of the solid rock. It is of considerable elevation, and famous for the caves which are hewn in the solid rock, and contain colossal figures of four of the principal Hindoo deities. The view from these caves is most magnificent, and better worth seeing than the caves themselves ;

for they are much injured by the admission of water from the top ; and though surprising are not to be named with any of the numerous temples in this place. However, the whole trip was delightful, and the sail we had passing by Salsette, and forward to Panwell, where I parted with my friends, I must always remember as the pleasantest voyage of my life.

“ I now began to travel by land, and, making the best bargain in my power, addressed myself for Poonah, which was nearly sixty miles distant. My travelling accommodation was by no means good, but a man who had been in the Burmese war was not likely to be easily frightened at deficient conveniencies ; so I set out in good spirits, determined to make the best of every thing ; being mounted on a tolerable pony, called here Tattoo, with two bullocks to carry my luggage and their drivers.

“ Thus equipped, I pushed on to Capooly, a poor village, where, having far outstripped my

servant and the provisions, I was at a great loss for food, which, however, I supplied in some measure by bathing, which is a refreshment of incalculable service in these hot climates. To my great satisfaction, they came up before I set out again, and I determined for the future never to leave them so far behind. We passed the night in a tent at the foot of the Ghauts, and I never remember enjoying moonlight scenes more in my life, than in the novel and picturesque views around me.

“ The following day I began to ascend the passes in the mountain before me, and was every where delighted with the wildness of the scenery around me, the freshness of the mountain air, and the sylvan objects occasionally presented of little Hindoo farms. In the course of my journey, I saw several fine tanks, which are in this country often made as a public charity ; and in a hot country may deservedly rank with the greatest benefits a man can bestow on his

fellow-creatures. They are often made by damming up an outlet, and not unfrequently finished at a prodigious expense of money and labour; but, unfortunately, there are no funds appropriated for repairs, from which circumstance many of these noble works are going to decay.

“ I afterwards passed through the open country to the mountain of Eknerah, where there is a large temple hewn out of the solid rock, called the Temple of Karli. On entering this surprising place, I found a ponderous arched roof of solid stone, supported by two rows of pillars, the capitals of each surmounted by a well sculptured figure of a male and female, seated, with their arms encircling each other, on the back of crouching elephants. The vestibule to this temple was very noble, having the sitting figure of Budha at the entrance. I thought this temple so far superior to the caves of Elephanta, that it quickened my desire of proceeding to Elora. My next place of halt

was Teligaum, where I procured another Tattoo and some cold provisions, which I placed, along with my pistols, in my holster. I was anxious to get on to Poonah, where I had friends that would receive me; and I could not expect my baggage to get up to me.

“It so happened that, after a day of great fatigue, I entered Poonah just as the sun was descending in all his glory; and nothing could exceed the effect thus given to the appearance of a noble city, containing all the most striking features of oriental magnificence. The Rarbutti temple, Hindoo palaces, white terraced houses, castles and gardens, intermixed with the buildings and shops of all descriptions, with open windows, and the goods exposed on declining platforms, formed a *tout ensemble* highly amusing. This was animated by that variety of inhabitants always so striking: Arab horsemen, completely armed, and mounted on fine chargers; pretty Hindoo women in milkwhite vestments; Jews,

and Portuguese Christians ; state elephants and led horses, richly caparisoned, and occasionally a British siphanee in his neat dress, altogether made a moving spectacle of the most lively description.

“ I was received at the house of my friends with all the usual hospitality of the country, and after taking sufficient rest I was provided by my friend, Captain S——, with a fresh horse, new coolies, and a guard of siphanees ; and I set out for our military station at Seroon, and accomplished my journey of forty-two miles thither in one day.

“ Here again every civility was accorded me ; but it might truly be said, that after I left my friends here, I left the civilized world behind me. I had abundant opportunity for observing the ravages made by the Mahrattas among the peaceful Hindoo villagers, and several parties of Bheels and other robbers (for this country abounds in organized bands of freebooters)

frequently approached us. My band of siphanees always took care to show their arms on such occasions, and we did not experience any actual insult. The latter part of the journey was almost entirely through a jungle, in which the Bheels find snug hiding-places; and in the whole of my road I did not find one tolerable village till I arrived at that of Elora, which is about a mile distant from Elora itself.

“ This place is embosomed in trees, and inhabited by Bramins, and guarded by a body of Ragpoots. The first place I entered was a pagoda, which, seated in a most romantic-looking spot, offered me that protection from the sun of which I stood greatly in need. A fine tank was before me, and a grove around me, and here I waited till my baggage arrived, and the means of refreshment after a long, hot ride were afforded me.

“ And now I must bid you adieu till to-morrow, when I will resume my letter; assured, that,

although I have no means of conveying to you my own sensations of delight on finding myself so near the object of my desires, yet, that you will be pleased with the efforts of my pen and pencil, intended for your amusements."

CHAPTER XVII.

Arrives at the Excavations of Elora.—Temple of Key-las.—Its insulated state, prodigious size, and elaborate finishing.—The area.—The Obelisks.—Sphinxes.—Galleries and statues.—Visits Teen Tal.—Its grandeur, statues, &c.—Continuation.—Temple of Visvacarma.—Temple of Jaggernaut.

[*Henry in continuation.*]

"I WELL remember that Captain Mangles described his emotions as vivid in the extreme, when at a great distance he perceived a temple cut in the pinnacles of a rock, in the desert, glittering in the sunbeams. Such were my sensations when, after taking a hasty meal, I

pushed forward with my attendants for the temples of Elora, nor can I describe the overpowering emotion which seized me when I actually beheld the great temple of Keylas before my sight.

“The perfect calmness and death-like tranquillity of all around; the solitude of the adjoining plains; the mountain before me, which, for more than a mile, is perforated in every part with such magical skill and power, that it appears to have been the work of more than human hands, have an effect on the mind which renders wonder and delight even oppressive. The more I gazed the greater was my astonishment, and every step which brought me farther into the temple rendered this unparalleled perforation the more surprising.

“Only think, John, of a stupendous temple, within a large open court, with all its parts perfect and beautiful, completely detached from the neighbouring mountain by a spacious area

all round, two hundred and fifty feet deep, and one hundred and fifty broad, yet all actually cut out and from this very mountain ! The height is one hundred feet, the length one hundred and forty-five, the breadth sixty-two, and the doors, windows, staircases, all perfectly formed and polished ; containing five rooms divided by rows of pillars ; figure galleries, or verandas, with not less than forty-two gigantic figures of the Hindoo mythology ; the three galleries containing and occupying between four and five hundred feet of excavated rock. Is it not beyond belief that the hands of man could effect such a work—that the mind should conceive it ?

“ When one considers that the chisel alone could have been employed in effecting this elaborate work, an instrument so slow in its operation, and requiring even for a single isolated statue that niceness of admeasurement—you may remember we once witnessed in the Atelier of Mr. Bahnes, in London—it appears inconceivable

that such an extensive work, with so many various parts, and such copious details, could have been hewn out of the solid granite. We can form no idea of the number of hands employed, the rules by which the labour of each was adjusted, nor the expense incurred. Of one thing alone can we be certain, which is, that the country must have been in a far different state to that it has enjoyed for many centuries. There must have been a prodigious population, profound peace, abundant wealth, an absolute prince, and numerous subjects well informed in those arts which are here exhibited so strikingly.

“ Within the court, and opposite to the verandas, stands ‘Keylas the Proud,’ a mighty mass of rock ; but this I will leave, and carry you with me as well as I can through the temple itself.

“ We entered the area at the western front, passing through a handsome gateway. Here

a variety of sculptured figures and ornaments in high relief arrest your attention, with the goddess Bhavani on the right, and Ganessa on the left, and two elephants with their trunks entwined; and here the whole area appears hewn out to make room for the grand temple. On either side there is a ledge of rock, which serves as a bridge for communicating with the great temple, and under this bridge is a communication between the areas. A few feet beyond these are two large obelisks, eleven feet square and forty-one feet high, the shaft at the base being seven feet; so that, you see, they are larger than the famous Needles of Cleopatra.

“ They are indeed beautiful objects, and are alone worth coming a long way to see. They are handsomely carved, and have had an animal of some kind at the top of each. There are long ranges of apartments on either side of this entrance, all covered with their absurd mythologi-

cal stories, and frequently as indecent as they are ridiculous ; but the labour evinced in these specimens of ancient lithography is not the less remarkable.—We have now passed the gateway and entered the body of the temple, on each side of which are two flights of stairs which bring you to a portico ; on this are the figures of two sphinxes, which I thought very remarkable, as it seems a connecting link between the ancient religion of this country and that of Egypt ; and I have understood Sir Stamford Raffles found a sphinx at Java, which extends the supposition as to the diffusion of this belief over the East.

“ When you have seen these figures, you ascend three steps and enter a separate room, in which the sacred bull Nundi is seen in a state of repose. You descend seven steps, and enter a kind of balcony, where the nobat (a large drum) and pipes are sounded at certain hours ; from this you have a fine view of the plain and the village of Elora at a distance. The whole range

of excavations standing upon a considerable elevation, and having a gentle acclivity, enjoy a beautiful prospect; and when leaving the outer view you recross the passages, and look down into the piazza below, with its numerous deities, the pillars, and the court, nothing can be conceived more picturesque in effect—it realizes all the fairy tales of our childhood in its grandeur and vastness.

“The great hall of the temple is enriched by two gigantic Chubbars, (*i.e.* keepers of silence,) placed on either side of the door; and the hall itself is divided by four ranges of pillars, the middle space being much wider than the rest. These noble pillars were to me the most beautiful objects, for I have really not knowledge enough of the Hindoo mythology and the attributes of its deities, to look with any pleasure or interest upon their hideous and disgusting forms. I have not the least doubt but you, who read so much, know more about these gentry than I do,

and therefore you will award them their places in a temple, which I grieve to think should have been dedicated to any thing so vile and hideous.

“ After wandering in the temple till the sun had set and the moon arisen, shedding her clear, mild rays on this magnificent temple, with that brilliancy of light and depth of shadow, which gives so much effect in works of this description, I was at length obliged to return to the village, where my tent was pitched : my servant prepared a curry, and the great fatigue I had undergone made me sleep soundly, in despite of that nervous irritability so generally produced by the pleasure I had experienced.

“ The following morning I formed an acquaintance with an aged Bramin, who was willing to become my guide to Elora, as I was impatient to visit the temples of Do Tal and the arched temple of Visvacarma, preferred by some to that of Keylas itself.

“ The first object to which my attention was drawn, on my second visit, was Teen Tal, called also ‘ Rama Swaming’s Dwelling :’ it is a vast excavation of three distinct stories, with massive pillars, rich sculpture, and fine flights of steps. The insular situation of Keylas gives it one advantage over this wonderful work ; but, in all other respects, it is not less surprising. There is a fine area, from which the whole front, of three stories, appears to the greatest advantage ; to each story are appropriated eight square pillars and two pilasters. The rooms are very fine, and one contains a large figure of Siesha, who the Bramin informed me passed through seven incarnations, and in the last was born in the human shape. There were also very large figures of Angeri and Adanant in a sitting posture, the crown of their heads touching the ceiling within a few inches : every where through this excavation are fine cisterns of beautiful water.

“ On ascending the stairs we found a large figure of Cuvera, the god of riches, and facing the southern entrance a large figure of Sey Doo, their immortal serpent, that assumed the human form : near to this curious subject were five gigantic brothers, sitting under a canopy of waving drapery, upheld by small figures. They have evidently received the highest finish the artist could bestow ; and my old Bramin gave me a long account of their origin and deeds ; but all was so extremely absurd, that it was impossible to look in his venerable and intelligent countenance, and think that he could believe one word of the nonsense he uttered ; yet it is not less certain that he did, and there was something extremely imposing in his seriousness. It is impossible for me to describe one half of the rooms and figures which I afterwards saw ; but I must not omit to mention that in another place we found seven figures sitting also under a canopy, and greatly resem-

bling each other. Their faces were all painted with oil and red-ochre, which gave them a most ludicrous appearance. The principal one I understood to be Sita, who was a virtuous damsel, that ran all the way to Ceylon to escape from King Ravan:—there are annual feasts in honour of her purity, and altogether she is a very popular person.

“ This excavation was altogether so very superior to any thing I had expected to see after Keylas, (with the exception of Visvacarma,) that when I arrived at the temple of Dô Tal, (or two stories,) I thought it comparatively very poor. 'Tis true, I was now wearied, and evening was coming on, but yet I do not think it possesses any striking beauty. The area is a hundred and two feet long, the breadth forty-four feet; the upper stories are in good order, but the lower ones injured. There are not many sculptured figures here, and only statues of Rama Chandra and his two brothers. In any other

place Do Tal would be a great wonder, but at Elora it becomes a secondary object; it closed, however, my second day's search; and as I now grew better satisfied from habit with our general safety, I caused my tent to be pitched near the mountain, and closed my eyes amid the proudest wonders of Elora. I need not tell you, for your own heart will, that you were, in *one* sense, constantly present with me during this day and the former, and that I sincerely regretted your absence, at the same time."

(In continuation.)

" Temple of Visvacarma.

" I write to you now, my dear John, sitting under the mighty arch of the Temple of Visvacarma, after sitting three hours opposite to it, in order to make the accompanying drawing; for I am well aware, that in all matters of description the pencil goes far beyond the pen, in conveying an accurate idea. But indeed, my dear brother, neither the one nor the other,

can convey to you an adequate notion of this stupendous excavation ; it penetrates more than a hundred and thirty feet into the solid rock, forming a deep and spacious temple, with a magnificent arched roof, apparently supported by a series of octangular pillars, which go completely to the end. In front are immense figures of Visvacarma, who was the Vulcan of the Hindoo mythology, attended by Karli and Canarah.

“ The area in front is about fifty feet, and on the basement floor is a kind of veranda, encircling an apartment probably intended for an orchestra ; as the cylindrical drums, pipes, and bells, are much used in the Hindoo worship. It is, at all events, a beautiful apartment, and from it you enjoy the finest possible view of the temple. The roof is especially fine, being carved into ribs of stone, that have at once a light and strong appearance, and which rest on a beautiful projecting architrave, the foot of every one being adorned by a sitting figure of

the most finished sculpture. The Temple of Karli somewhat resembles this, as does that of Elephanta, but neither of them can compare with it; for, in addition to the magnificent columns, there is a deep grand frieze connecting these massive supporters with the roof, which is covered with sculptured figures, in high relief; so that the whole is complete in all its parts, and is at once rich and light, massive and elegant. My admiration of this extraordinary production greatly delighted the old Bramin, who still continued to accompany me: he is certainly a very pleasing old man, and seems entirely free from that pride and obstinacy which is so conspicuous in the inhabitants of great cities, of his own sacred caste. He expressed, with natural zeal, great sorrow for the desertion of these glorious temples, and great anger towards the memory of Aurungzebe, who had done his best to blow up some of these fine excavations with gunpowder; and I shall never forget the

horror of his countenance, when he told me of the sacrilege committed by this conqueror. It appears, that, on finding it impossible to effect this cruel and shameful purpose, the barbarian ordered his soldiers to slay a cow within the sacred walls of one of the finest temples, in consequence of which it is defiled for ever, and not one of the Hindoos would, on any account, ever enter the once sacred enclosure. To say the least of this, it was a hateful exertion of power over a prostrate and suffering foe ; but such, generally, has been the conduct of the Crescent in the day of its power.

“ My third day’s examination was given to the Temple of Jagernaut, the Lord of the Creation. This is the same terrific personage whose temple at Orissa has made so much noise in the world ; beneath whose ponderous car, men, women, and children, have been thrown by their enthusiasm to perish, as many respectable Europeans have

grieved to witness. When poor Ferdinand de Pinto described the movements of that mighty car, near three hundred years ago, and spoke of people seeking to win Heaven by laying themselves under its wheels, his tale was ridiculed, and he was named the ' Prince of Liars ;' but the thing has now ceased to be a wonder, and there can be no doubt, but on this very spot, centuries on centuries ago, the same mad follies have been exhibited. I am most happy to say, that these shocking practices have so far abated that, on several late annual festivals of Jaggernaut, there have been found no self-sacrifices ; and that so little respect was found for the grim idol, that it was difficult for the priests to procure a sufficient number of persons to move his ponderous vehicle. It seems, however, that a rich Hindoo, within a few years, left the sum of thirty-five thousand pounds towards improving the road from Benaris to the Temple of Jagger-

naut ; so that this bloody-toothed idol has a few friends left.

“ From this temple to the one at the extremity of the southern range, I find, on measurement, to be a mile and a quarter. All are dug out of the same mountain and the same species of rock, but there is none absolutely separated from the parent mountain, besides Keylas, or Kaloise, which I have already described. This of Jagernaut is extremely grand, but the area in front is nearly filled up with pieces of fallen rock, so that you have some difficulty in gaining a complete view ; but you find, on inspection, that not one of the temples is more highly finished or more magnificent in effect. The ceiling is supported by twelve pillars, ten feet in girth, beautifully fluted, and tastefully decorated with wreaths of flowers. The length of the apartment thus supported is nearly sixty feet, and the veranda, or outer front, is fifty feet in height. From the basement it is covered with

figures of lions, kneeling men, and serpents ; and the whole of this grand basement appears to rest on the back of four elephants. The whole of this temple and the veranda have something light and elegant ; it seems a place where one might like to live. It has not the magnificence of Keylas, and it is far more injured than Visvacarma ; but it is more cheerful than either, and not less elaborate in all its ornaments. I should yet judge, from appearances around, that it never has been completed ; probably the stone* was found too hard to work upon, for there are proofs in all these temples that some parts have

* I am informed by my friend Mr. Smith, of the British Museum, that in the interior of a large granite rock, there is frequently found considerable moisture, so that it may be wrought with comparative ease ; whereas, on the outer part it is perfectly hard. Such was the case with the Portland at the time when St. Paul's Cathedral was building ; in consequence of which, Sir Christopher Wren caused many blocks to be worked on the spot ; but the difficulty of conveying them with safety, after they had been so wrought, occasioned him to abandon that method of proceeding.

been found to resist the chisel effectually, as you see now and then a piece left in an unsightly manner in the midst of an elaborately finished frieze; such pieces are always found in the upper, or quite exterior part of the temple where they occur.

“ Close to this temple, and indeed connected with it, is a small one, dedicated to the hero Adnant; who is represented in a figure about four feet high, in a sitting posture. In this small excavation the same pains are taken for the purpose of embellishment: it is supported by four quadrangular pillars, and in the centre of the shaft is a tiger's head, with a wreath of flowers in the mouth, most tastefully executed. The statues here are more injured than in any other of the temples, owing to their being exposed to currents of air.

“ I shall now close this long letter, as the return of two siphanees to our military dépôt will enable me to forward it, through the officers,

to you ; but to-morrow I shall continue my observations. Be assured, that I am very well, though my provisions are reduced, and I am now living on rice and vegetables, and drinking the pure water, which pours in two prodigious cascades down this most romantic of all mountains, affording to every one of the excavations an abundant supply. At present, I have taken up my abode within the veranda of this temple, and consider the use of one of its splendid cisterns as my chief luxury. I find myself secure from the snakes, which was not the case in my tent when pitched in the valley ; and I met with no opposition from the Bramins, as I apprehend I am not in that which was considered the more holy part.

“ Adieu, my dear brother ! give my love to all my dear home circle ; never shall I again send it from a place so singular and so contrasted with my own dear home.

“ HENRY DELAMERE.”

CHAPTER XVIII.

Temple of Indra.—Leaves Elora.—Poonah, and Burning of Malabar Widows.—Aurangabad.—Splendid monument.—Aurangzebe.—Punishment of an Hindoo.—The Fakirs.—Festival at Poonah.—Conclusion.

[*Henry to his brother John.*]

“ I BEGAN this letter in the Temple of Indra, my dear John : where I shall end it, I cannot tell. It is now three days since I despatched my last, during which time I have surveyed every part of the excavations, several of which, though of a smaller character than those I have described, are well worth seeing ; but I shall confine myself to speaking of the one from whence I date, because I have made an elabo-

rate drawing of it, and I hope I can give you a good idea of it. Taking it altogether, I think the front is the most striking of any of these stupendous and beautiful works; at least, it is second only to Keylas, and decidedly superior to Teen Tal, which is, however, the larger.

“This temple, like that of Keylas, has had a wall in front, for there are gateways left standing, and you see by the drawing that there is an obelisk as an ornament to the entrance. My old Bramin friend assures me that there were two, but that one was removed by Aurungzebe: but of this I have my doubts, because I can perceive no remains; and it is evident that the present one was used to hold lights at the top, on festivals.

“I entered this curious excavation at the upper story, by a communication from the Temple of Jaggernaut, which also affords an opening to another, viz. Parasa Kama, and, in doing this, convinced myself that these excavations

had been begun at the top and continued downward; and that the workmen had found themselves able to effect the most difficult and delicate part of their labour best, the more they proceeded. The present noble excavation looks directly into the area, and faces an insulated temple in the court below. It is formed by sections of pillars into nearly two square apartments, within each other. The inner square has a raised floor, and an altar placed in the centre. The floors are richly carved in many places, and the roof is supported by pillars of immense dimensions, twelve in number, each finished with a large globular top, compressed like a pillow, and beautifully fluted; the shafts and pedestals being elegantly sculptured in relief. Not only are the walls adorned with pilasters, but there is scarcely five inches of them left undecorated with wreaths of flowers, and emblems of their religion, amongst which a sacred string is predominant. At the north

and south ends of the apartment are statues of the god Indra and his wife Indranee. These personages are of the more importance, because they gave name to the country originally called Indu, but corrupted to Hindu, or Hindoo.

“ At the north and south sides of the temple are gigantic figures of various deities, whose names I cannot remember ; and indeed I must now take leave of these mighty temples, this wonderful mountain and enchanting valley, the peaceful village and the melancholy Bramins—my time is expired, my duty calls me, and I must return to another world, which will seem to me almost as wonderful as to the hero whom Homer sends into the mansions of Erebus and the fields of Elysium, for surely my journey has partaken of both. The wild, the beautiful, the ancient, and the grand, in all their most striking features, have been exhibited to my delighted gaze ; but they have been alloyed by the proofs of a debasing idol-

atry, absurd in its mysteries, disgusting in its objects, and perpetually pressing upon the heart a deep sense of the degradation of those very men whose art and power is so strikingly displayed.

* * * *

“ Poonah.

“ Here am I thus far on my return, and the kindness with which I am treated, the interest taken in my details and drawings, make me only regret that I am obliged to pay so short a visit, for the kindness of Captain and Mrs. S—— is greater than I can express. But indeed there is no place in the world like India for genuine hospitality. Every body who has a house seems to think he holds it as much for others as himself; and from living in a land of strangers, every additional guest conveys the idea of increasing a sacred band of one's own countrymen around them. When I arrived here, to tell you the truth, I was in a very

exhausted state; the weather had been excessively hot, and my labours of examination had been beyond my strength. My friends here think that my Hindoo table of herbs had contributed to this end; but I do not think much of that, for I enjoyed luxury compared to our situation at Rangoon. I have, however, at present every advantage, and may already be said to be well.

“To these comforts are added that sweetest of all pleasures—excellent society. Captain S—— is a man about fifty, has seen a great deal of the world, and is well acquainted with this country in particular. You have undoubtedly heard of the hateful practice in Malabar of widows burning themselves on the same pile with their husbands. As I never could, I am certain, prevail upon myself to attend a spectacle of this nature, I will relate to you the manner in which Captain S—— witnessed its performance.

“The burning of a widow with her husband is called a Suttee, and is considered an act of the highest piety and grandeur, none but persons of family importance thinking of such a sacrifice. Captain S——, hearing that such an exhibition was about to take place, thought it his duty to repair to the spot, and, if he could do so with any propriety, interfere to prevent it; but this he found to be impossible. The widow had been married a very short time, she was only twelve years of age, and the late husband was an ill-favoured man of fifty. At the time of his arrival, the funeral pyre was constructed in the form of an altar, decorated with large branches of trees, and upon it was laid the body of the deceased. A procession of Bramins were walking around, also a great number of their usual musicians beating tam-tams and cymbals, and the whole affair wore the air of a festival.

“In a short time the victim widow appeared,



walking between two Bramins, and followed by her relations: her youth, beauty, and the utter improbability that she was drawn to the awful sacrifice from love to the poor wretch before him, induced Captain S—— to press eagerly forward, and question the Bramins as to the validity of her death. All his objections were speedily overruled, by the assurance, “that her death was completely voluntary, and not only enjoined by the *shastu*, but permitted as a religious usage by the Government.” In doing this, he obtained a close view of the widow, whose completely stupified air assured him that they had given her opium till her senses were nearly gone. When arrived at the pile, she took off her costly ornaments, or rather tried to do so, for she had not the power, and was assisted by the women; after which, a burning torch was placed in her hand, with which she was to set fire to the branches around her: she mounted the place and sate

down by the corpse, but how she used the torch could not be seen, for in a moment the whole place was simultaneously fired by the assisting Bramins, and the tam-tams redoubled their discordant sounds to drown the cries of the expiring woman, if in her agonies any such escaped her.

“ At another time, he saw a woman about to be burned alive in a pit with her husband, that being the mode used in some provinces : this poor creature was only eleven years old, and merely betrothed to her husband ; and at the time when he reached the place, her mother was hanging upon her in all the agonies of extreme distress, forming a spectacle that must have touched the heart of any human being, save that of a bigoted Bramin. Captain S—— had by that time learned that, according to their own laws, a woman cannot burn till she is of full age, (*viz.* sixteen,) and that all opium is forbidden. As it was evident to all, that she

had been affected by taking this drug, and both her parents were present attesting her age, and it was known to all her neighbours that she was not yet a wife, he so protested against the illegality of the burning, that he finally rescued the victim, and rendered even the crowd sensible that he was right in so doing.

“ That some women burn willingly, there can be no doubt, but I believe they are very few in number. Captain Seely mentions one, who, on being dissuaded, put her finger into the flame and held it there resolutely, to show she despised the pain ;—but though ardent affection, family pride, and that heroism which is consistent with the gentlest natures, may sometimes thus operate, it is assuredly but very seldom ; and these unnatural murders may, with great truth, be laid at the door of the priests, who keep them up as a part of the ancient religion. They cannot be such fools as not to know, that if, in the course of providence,

one parent is taken, the value of the other increases tenfold to the children; yet they shut their hearts to the cries of nature, alike from the parents and offspring of the victim; they immolate not only an innocent creature of life, by the severest of all tortures, but deprive age of its support, and youth of its protector. A more diabolical system of cruelty never held the sanction of law amongst any people upon earth.

“ Infanticide used to be very common; but this crime, like the burning of women, is much on the decline; yet even now, if a man of high caste has a female child born more than he can conveniently provide for, he does not hesitate to have the babe strangled or killed by opium. It was once the practice to drown them, but the presence of the Europeans prevents this a good deal at this time. When men were so sick as to be given over, they used to take them to the Ganges’ banks, where the

waters might flow over them, or crocodiles devour them, as it happened ; and in some parts, where the river is held more particularly sacred, this is still done, but it is by no means so common as it used to be. The pains taken by the Company to enlighten the minds of the natives certainly has a happy effect, though the progress is slow. There are in fact few, very *few*, converts to Christianity ; but there is a general amelioration of prejudices, a consultation of their own judgment, rather than the absurd dogmas of their priests, which will in time lay a foundation on which to build up a pure religion ; and it appears to me as if, in this respect, it were better to travel slowly, than to ruin all by attempting too much.

“ In entering on this subject, I lost sight of my general journal-like style ; the great interest it necessarily excites in every mind must be my excuse. I must now tell you, that on quitting Elora I went to visit Aurungabad, which is only

restored, by having two large hooks run into the flesh of his back, by which means he is fixed on a pole, which is itself placed horizontally upon another that is planted in the ground; and by means of a rope at the opposite end to his own prostrate body, he is swung and twirled for the space of half an hour, when the act of penance is completed.

“ I have already mentioned the Fakirs, or men who live in perpetual misery. I have seen, in the course of this journey, several who have far exceeded all I could have conceived on the subject. One man was swinging by his heels in a tree over a slow fire; another had held his arm in one posture till the muscles were so stiff he could not bring it down; a third had an iron pin run through his tongue; and I saw one man that had hopped on one leg with the other tied up, until it was contracted and perfectly useless.

“ At Poonah I have witnessed a much plea-

santer spectacle, in the festival of the Goddess Sita. It was really a gay kind of fête, for there were painted lanterns, wreaths of flowers, bands of dancers, and jugglers in abundance. These fellows used to be among the wonders of the East; but since their curious feats have been exhibited in England, there is no need for me to describe them. I shall send off this long letter and the drawings, accompanied by my purchases at Aurungabad, in which every dear member of my family will find I have remembered them. It is true, that, with the exception of the shawl for my dear, *dear* mother, there is little of value, and I may repeat our old nurse's adage in making my little offering—

‘ The gift is small,
But love is all.’

And truly that love is greater than I have the power to express. Far from being diminished by distance, or diverted by circumstance, every

day and every scene draw my mind still closer to you all; and many an hour of pleasant reverie do I enjoy, wondering whether you are all altered as I am, and trying to imagine how my sweet Selina looks in the dress of a woman, and lovely little William in that of a man.

“Farewell! once more; present me dutifully and affectionately, as you know I desire to be, to our inestimable parents, and all the rest; and believe me, dear John, most sincerely yours, &c. &c.

“HENRY DELAMERE.”

THE END.

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